Spring 2019 MiniGrant RFP

Institute on the Environment (IonE) Mini Grants spur new collaborative efforts by providing small amounts of funding to interdisciplinary groups of faculty, staff and students from across the University of Minnesota system. The purpose of the program is to encourage risk taking, experimentation, and collaborations across disciplines, units, communities or campuses.

Types of work typically supported include: seed funding, travel, events (workshops, conference, etc.), engagement (public art, outreach, etc.), emerging issues and curriculum development. We do not fund staff or faculty salaries, or support activities that are commonly associated with traditional departments and research programs.

Mini Grant periods of performance may last for 6, 12, 18, or 24 months, depending upon the scope of work. The maximum award amount is $3000. The period of performance for this cohort will begin on May 1, 2019.

Instructions & Requirements

The deadline for this round of proposals is Sunday, April 14, 2019 and awards will be released on May 1, 2019. Proposals are submitted through an on-line application, https://IonE-apply.fluidreview.com/. Each project must have a Principal Investigator (PI) who is University of Minnesota staff or faculty. The PI’s department will administer any awarded funds and ensure that the funds are used as described in the proposal. If a student wishes to lead a project, the student must find a faculty or staff collaborator who will serve as PI. Additionally, the PI must provide a brief letter of support for the student’s application.

Evaluation

Proposals should be written to a general audience and will be evaluated using this rubric. Evaluators will be chosen from IonE staff and affiliates, and each proposal will be reviewed by no fewer than three people. Please note that the rubric is substantially different from previous Mini Grants. It is not expected that every proposal will receive the maximum number of points for each of the five required sections, we therefore added a new Impacts section where proposals can receive extra credit for aligning their work to impacts important to IonE.

The Fine Print

Mini Grants do not fund faculty or staff salary, equipment, or any unallowable costs per UMN policy. Any unused funds will be returned to IonE after the period of performance has ended. Proposed work must comply with all UMN policies, including ethical and regulatory standards. Please consult the OVPR Ethics and Compliance Overview prior to proposal development to ensure compliance.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Thissen, Institute on the Environment Grants and Contracts Coordinator, at this0017@umn.edu.