Institute on the Environment Mini Grants spur new collaborative efforts by providing small amounts of funding to groups from across the University of Minnesota five-campus system. This funding might seed innovative knowledge initiatives, leadership, education, or storytelling proposals that advance one or more of IonE’s core values – taking risks; practicing leadership; collaborating and communicating; embracing teamwork and diversity; measuring what matters; and honoring varied paths. Proposals that develop new collaborations across disciplines, units, external communities, and campuses will be prioritized.

Mini Grant periods of performance may last for 6, 12, 18, or 24 months, depending upon the scope of work. The maximum award is $3,000. Funds for this round will be released after December 1, 2019.

Instructions & Requirements

The deadline for this round of proposals is Sunday, October 27, 2019; results will be posted after November 15, 2019. Proposals must be submitted through the online application, but all questions and word counts may be found here.

Each project must have a Principal Investigator (PI) who is a current UMN staff or faculty member. The PI’s department will administer awarded funds and ensure that the funds are used as described in the proposal. If a student wishes to lead a project, they must have a faculty or staff collaborator who will serve as PI. Additionally, the PI must provide a letter of support for the student’s application.

All awarded projects will be required to submit a final report upon the project’s conclusion.

Evaluation

Proposals should be written to a general audience and will be evaluated using this rubric. Please note that the rubric is substantially different from previous Mini Grants.

The Fine Print

Mini Grants do not fund faculty or staff salary (including course buy-outs); activities that are associated with ongoing departmental, extra-curricular, or research programs; equipment; or any unallowable costs per UMN policy. Proposals requesting more than $3,000 will be rejected without review. 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. Consult the OVPR Ethics and Compliance Overview prior to proposal development to ensure compliance. Any proposals requiring IRB or IACUC approval must indicate pending or approval status in their proposal; if selected and IRB or IACUC approval is required for this research, approval documentation must be provided to IonE prior to the award of funding.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Thissen, IonE Grants and Contracts Coordinator, this0017@umn.edu