INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Fund Request for Proposals

Vision

The Institute on the Environment's mission is to lead the way toward a future in which people and the environment prosper together. To further that mission, we acknowledge the role social inequality has played in perpetuating disproportionate environmental outcomes and have established a fund of $30,000 to accelerate 3-6 projects that help people and the environment prosper together more equitably and justly.

UMN faculty, staff, and students from any University of Minnesota campus are welcome to apply for up to $10,000 of funding. All projects must have a clear connection to issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, & justice (DEIJ) and the environment and/or sustainability.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis; proposals will be selected based on the criteria found on this rubric. Types of environmental or sustainability work we expect to fund include:
- Programs that support members of populations in university and/or community spaces in which they are traditionally underrepresented and/or marginalized;
- Research, programs, or projects which integrate studies and/or research projects with historically excluded groups into courses or general curriculum;
- Seminars or workshops on topics related to DEIJ;
- Creative endeavors such as exhibits or performances that illustrate aspects of DEIJ;
- Programs/projects to promote DEIJ;
- Relationship cultivation;
- Seed funding for project development of any of the above.

Please consult this document for guidance on definitions as they relate to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their inclusion of one or more of these objectives:

- Strengthen the commitment to and/or support the advancement of DEIJ in environmental or sustainability projects, research, creative activities, curriculum, or other programmatic initiatives;
- Partner/collaborate with organizations or teams seeking to address the intersection of DEIJ and environmental and/or sustainability issues in Minnesota and beyond with potentially scalable capabilities;
- Train the next generation of environmental justice leaders; or
- Seed or launch new initiatives (or prototypes) that engage and support the following individuals or groups outlined by the University's Office of Equity and Diversity:
  - American Indians and other Indigenous populations;
  - People of color; including historically excluded, minoritized, and/or marginalized groups; and new immigrant populations;
  - People with both apparent and non-apparent disabilities;
  - People who identify as women;
  - People of various gender and sexual identities and expressions;
  - First-generation students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds;
  - The intersection of any of the above identities.

Eligibility

- UMN faculty, staff, and students from all University of Minnesota campuses are welcome to apply.
- Student-led or community-led proposals must include a letter of support from a sponsoring faculty or staff member, outlining the sponsor's role in the project. At a minimum, the sponsoring faculty or staff would be required to administer grant funds and provide mentorship if a student project is awarded.

Collaboration with IonE

We hope to support your effort with more than money! Please consult our events website for tips on how to plan, budget, and execute effective and zero waste events. We require advanced knowledge of all events and publications associated with these grants and may be able to help promote your project or event. IonE has meeting and reception space which grantees may use free of charge, based on availability. Please email us at ione@umn.edu for more information.

Grant Cycle

- X RFP Release Date
- X Proposal Deadline
- X Funds Available, Begin Period of Performance
- End Date: 6, 12, 18, or 24 months from start date
- Final Report: Due one month from end of project

How to Apply

Register and complete an application at IonE's FluidReview platform; required application components include:

- *Faculty / Staff Project Manager (PI)*
  All projects <u>must</u> include a Project Manager who is employed by the University of Minnesota. This person will be responsible for any funds received through this program and will work with their departmental accountant for all financial transactions. If the project is student-led or community-led, the Project Manager must include a letter of support detailing their participation in the project as well as their Employee ID, department id, and departmental accountant information.
- *Lead Coordinator*
  Projects may include a lead coordinator separate from the faculty/staff project manager (PI). This person will be responsible for the final report and included on all emails about this application/ award. For student-led or community-led projects, please enter the lead person here.
- *Abstract: 150 word limit*
  Provide a brief overview of the project and its intended outcomes. This should be written for a general audience and may be used for public advertisements.
- *Proposal Narrative: 1800 word limit*
  Include all three of the following sections in your narrative.
  - <u>Statement of Need</u>
    The Statement of Need should establish the focus and rationale for the project. Why is this project necessary? What DEIJ <u>and</u> environmental or sustainability outcome, issue, or concern are you addressing?
  - <u>Project Objectives, Activities and Feasibility</u>
    Clearly outline how you will use the requested funds to accomplish your project's objectives. Describe what the project will be doing and how all partners will contribute to the project. Demonstrate your project's feasibility by detailing the experiences and resources that will be drawn upon to carry out the project.

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  - <u>Outcomes and Evaluation</u>
    Identify the anticipated outcomes and how they will contribute to the overall success of your project. Define what a successful project will look like and how you will know it is achieved.
- *Detailed Budget*
  Identify all costs associated with this project. We are unable to pay for faculty / staff salary (student salary is allowed), equipment, property, and any other cost [identified as unallowable](#) per University policy.
- *Budget Justification: 500 word limit*
  Briefly explain the cost of each expense and how they directly relate to your project.

The Fine Print

All communication related to these funds will acknowledge the source of funding and comply with IonE communications standards. More information, including downloadable IonE wordmarks, are available [here](#). All work must be completed within the Period of Performance. Funds will be released to the department prior to the start date. Any unused funds will be returned to IonE after the end date to fund other projects. Award terms & conditions may be [found here](#).

If you have any questions about this funding opportunity, please contact IonE at ione@umn.edu