



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ENGAGEMENT STARTUP (ERIES)

The Environmental Research, Innovation and Engagement Startup (ERIES) initiative is designed and funded by the Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP) at Michigan State University through its Fate of the Earth Endowment to promote new collaboration among faculty researchers from different disciplines to tackle environmental challenges with innovative approaches and to foster engagement with the public, with the goal of enhancing our capacity to grow interdisciplinary scholarship and to compete for external grants in environmental science and policy.

Objectives

The ERIES grant supports the formation and function of workgroups focused on strategically important research areas including, but not limited to, bioeconomy, environmental justice, food systems, global environmental change, invasive species, renewable energy, toxics in the environment, and water. A workgroup consists of a small number (e.g., 3-5) of faculty members from multiple disciplines with the goal of developing grant proposals, designing an interdisciplinary curriculum, working on major multidisciplinary publications, facilitating the establishment of and access to policy outreach platforms and networks, cultivating and supporting partnerships between communities and MSU around community-engaged learning, or linking scientific analysis with public deliberation. Inclusion of additional faculty members is allowable but only the workgroup will be recognized as official project personnel.

Unlike a typical seed grant, an ERIES grant primarily supports interactions of faculty members who otherwise do not have the opportunity to collaborate. The ERIES funding is not intended for supporting established research teams with well-developed research agenda. In the spirit of the Fate of the Earth Endowment, applicants are encouraged to propose activities that will engage not only researchers but also interested and impacted members of the public to help hone the science to the context in which it will be applied. Such activities are known to help "get the science right" and "get the right science". Activities to address systemic inequity and injustice through community-engaged learning are also encouraged.

Eligibility

ERIES funding is open to all MSU faculty members who are either core or affiliate faculty of ESPP.

Funding Amount and Use of Funds

The ERIES grant will provide funding for two years with a total amount of up to \$10,000. The funds can be used for group meetings, workshops, campus visits for potential collaborators and seminar speakers, site visits, travel to funding agencies, identification of and responses to grant opportunities, preliminary research, community engagement activities, etc. Some restrictions may apply. Groups should develop a work plan that promotes regular interaction and utilization of funding over the two-year project period to meet team goals.

Application Instructions

Updated December 6, 2022



The application deadline is December 15, 2022. Questions and applications should be sent to espp@msu.edu with the subject line containing “ESPP ERIES”.

The proposal as a single PDF should include the following information in the order noted below.

- Cover page: outlining the research areas, names and department affiliations of workgroup members and the lead faculty and contact information for the lead faculty.
- Workgroup and activity description (not to exceed 5 pages): outlining background information, research questions, goals of the workgroup, workgroup composition, activities of the workgroup, and expected outcomes.
- CV: NSF style two-page CV of each workgroup member.
- Budget and budget justification with a timeline of activities and accompanying expenditures.
- Current and Pending Support form: NSF style document for each workgroup member.

Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed according to value added and merit of the workgroup, including the following criteria:

Criterion	Score
Fostering new collaborations, especially with new and junior faculty members	20
Intellectual merit of proposed activities	20
Commitment to and likelihood of group members pursuing external funding opportunities	20
Multidisciplinary nature of the group members and approach	15
Engagement with interested and impacted parties	10
Alignment of research proposal with mission of ESPP	10
Budget and budget justification	5

Award

An interdisciplinary committee will review the proposals. Funding decisions will be made within 4 weeks of the application deadline. The funds are expected to be spent within the funding period. ESPP anticipates funding up to two proposals per year however reserves the decision not to make any awards.

Post-Award

ESPP will provide logistic support for the operation of the workgroups, if so desired. This would include space for group meetings, help with scheduling, grant intelligence and assistance with proposal development.

ESPP will hold annual meetings for the workgroups to present their progress reports and discuss plans. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the workgroups to interact with each other.

Each workgroup is required to submit a progress report after one year and a final report after two years, outlining the activities, expenditures, and achievements of the workgroup. A final report is due two months after the 2-year anniversary of the awarding of the funds. ESPP staff will also continue to monitor the progress of the group after the initial two years of funding for our own records.

Each workgroup must acknowledge ERIES in all publications that result from work supported or partially supported with ERIES resources such as: “This material is based upon work supported in part by the

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