AY 2022- 2023 Sustainability Research Grant Program Cal Poly Humboldt

General Information

This grant opportunity is funded and administered through a partnership between the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs Foundation, University Advancement, and the Sustainability Office at Cal Poly Humboldt. It offers funding to faculty for sustainability research, scholarship, and creative activities that cross disciplinary boundaries and foster solutions to sustainability challenges. Projects may investigate local issues or broaden to offer work on a global or international scale.

Purpose & Priorities

Supported activities must address or include one or more of the following:

- Research questions that foster inquiry and understanding at the intersection of environmental, social, and economic dimensions
- Projects that foster dialog and elevation of social and environmental justice issues
- Scholastic endeavors that build capacity for resiliency and adaptation responses to climate change
- Art and media that bring the community into greater cohesion and mobilization for sustainability solutions
- Projects that directly address eco-social needs of the campus, local, or global community (these endeavors must assess and monitor the degree of success for the applied project)
- Projects that engage with diverse knowledge systems & communities that have historically been underrepresented within sustainability discourse

Eligibility

Principal Investigators (PIs) as defined by SPF Policy are eligible to submit proposals to this RFP. These include Cal Poly Humboldt tenured or tenure-track faculty; salaried directors of formally authorized institutes, centers, cooperatives, or auxiliaries; full-time administrators/MPP's; emeritus faculty, visiting faculty, and research associates; and full-time Federal employees that are housed on the campus under agency cooperative agreements. Other Humboldt staff, students, student organizations, etc. are invited and encouraged to participate in proposed projects, provided that an eligible PI is taking responsibility for proposal submission and award administration in case of an award.

This funding aims to support new interdisciplinary research teams or projects that lay the foundation for a new area of research for established teams.

Preference will be given to proposals that 1) are submitted by early-career faculty, and 2) constitute diverse research teams (e.g. teams that include researchers with varied backgrounds or viewpoints, and/or from communities that are historically underrepresented in the research area). Only one application per applicant will be considered.

Available Awards

$20,000 is available at this time for awards. Minimum award amount is $2,000, maximum award amount is $10,000.

Uses

Funding may be used for the expenditure types such as:

- Wages for research assistants
- Instruments and tools needed to support the research or scholarly work
- Transportation and/or lodging for field work (limits and criteria will be in alignment with CSU Policy for Travel and Business Expense Reimbursements, read more at https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/12002664/latest/)
- Technology (both hardware and software) needed to support the work
- Honorariums for external guest speakers, consultants, expert scholars, and/or community members who add value to the project (no CSU staff/faculty)

Funds **may not** be used for:

- Release time/ Course buyout time
- Hospitality (food, gifts)

Application

Applications should include:

Page limit is not to exceed 5 pages, but does not include CV or other supporting attachments

- Name of PI & job title
- CV
- Names of any co-researchers and/or research assistants
- Describe how the research team includes people with varied backgrounds or viewpoints, and/or are from communities that are historically underrepresented in the research area
- IRB approval date (if applicable)
- IACUC approval date (if applicable)
- Abstract
- In-depth description of the scholarly work, including short literature review if applicable
- Description of methods
- Description of alignments to existing or ongoing projects that have other funding or support (if applicable)
- How does this project meet the outlined 'purpose and priorities' in this RFP?
- Will the project make a scholarly contribution to the discipline? If so, how?
  - OR: What is the estimated impact for this work? What metrics will be used to determine whether the project has been successful and made a positive impact to the community, the discipline, or in other ways?
    - Examples might include: energy saved, greenhouse gasses avoided, waste diverted from landfill, water saved, number of people engaged in the project, audience participation or attendance, landscape restored or land use change, jobs created, etc. Answers to this question would entail describing any measurable (qualitative or quantitative) criteria researchers will put forth to demonstrate how and why the work is impactful. Evaluators will expect this information to be estimated on the front end of the project. This information should also be measured throughout the project, and then reported in final results.

- How is this an interdisciplinary research project?
- How does this project demonstrate innovation?
- How does this project address and integrate mentorship of student researchers?
- Outline of funding needs by line item
- Timeline for the project
- How will this work be shared to campus and the larger academic community?

Applications should be submitted by: November 1, 2022 by 11:59 PM

Awards will be determined by Dec 1, 2022 and announced thereafter

Submittal method is via InfoReady which can be accessed through Engagement Hub here:
https://humboldt.inforeadyscale.com/hub

Evaluation Criteria
- Quality: how complete, well written, and well supported are the application materials? (10 points)
- Impact: how impactful will this project be and how well supported are claims and estimates for impact? (10 points)
- Interdisciplinarity: how many partners and relationships across disciplines are integrated into the project? (10 points)
- Visibility to community: how will the project be made visible and shared with the campus, local, and larger global community, such that lessons learned may be reviewed and replicated by others? (10 points)
- Innovation: how does this project advance knowledge through implementation of new or expanded research, scholarship, and creative activities that are innovative or unique (5 points)
- Mentorship: to what degree does this project integrate training and mentorship of student researchers? (5 points)

Total points available: 50 points

Evaluation Process
A committee composed of Sustainability Office staff (Katie Koscielak, Andrea Alstone, Morgan King), the campus Sustainability Faculty Fellow (Dr. Jennifer Ortega) , the campus TEK Faculty Fellow (Dr. Kaitlin Reed), 1 student representing Associated Students, and 1 staff member from Sponsored Programs (Erika Wright) will convene to review applications and make selections for awards. They will use the evaluation criteria outlined above to score applications. Highest scoring applicants will be awarded funds.

Review committee personnel may not apply for this award.

Final Deliverables
Awardees will be expected to submit a report outlining progress and any results at the 12 month interval after the award has been conferred. At the conclusion of the project, (and no later than 6 months from the time of completion), awardees will be expected to submit the following deliverables to the campus Sustainability Office:

1. Post-Experience Survey

2. Summary report describing the work completed
3. Pictures of work or research being completed
4. Actual expenditures by line item
5. Brief presentation to the Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability

In addition to these deliverables, awardees are strongly encouraged to share results and findings with the wider campus and academic community. Opportunities may include presentations, workshops, and poster sessions at some of the following annual events:

- Social Justice Summit
- This Way to Sustainability Conference (at Chico State)
- Earth Week
- Idea Fest
- CA Higher Education Sustainability Conference (UC Santa Barbara)
- AASHE's Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education (#GCSHE https://www.aashe.org/conference/)

The Sustainability Office would be interested and excited to support your participation in these events.

Contact

For questions about this grant, contact Katie Koscielak, Sustainability Analyst, at kmk928@humboldt.edu or Erika Wright, Research Development Lead, at emw7@humboldt.edu