



## Invitation to Submit Proposals for MUS Research Initiative Funding

### Call for Proposals

The State of Montana through the Montana University System Research Initiative has made available funding specifically for the purpose of supporting MUS research that spurs economic development. The Commissioner of Higher Education will administer competitive grants to researchers on the basis of each new project's potential for private-sector job creation, commercialization, and economic return on investment for the State of Montana.

### Eligibility and Funding Level

All research and tenure-track faculty from a MUS campus are eligible and encouraged to apply. Proposals will be funded up to \$2.5M for two years; a total \$15M is available and it is anticipated that 6 to 12 proposals will be funded (*contingent on state funding*). Research proposals must demonstrate how they will contribute toward meeting the overall MUS Research Initiative goals:

1. Address Montana issues/needs - *solve Montana problems with Montana solutions*
2. Create Montana jobs - *create good Montana private-sector jobs*
3. Help support the Montana economy - *grow emerging and important research sectors that contribute to the diversity of Montana's economy*
4. Provide a strong ROI to Montana – *leverage the MUS research enterprise*

### Research Areas

- Agriculture
- Natural Resources and Energy
- Materials and Manufacturing
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Information Technology and Computer Science

### Proposal Format

- I. Cover page indicating project title, principal investigator(s) (multiple PIs encouraged, but not required), and department, center, or institute affiliation
- II. Abstract (half page) - *written for a general audience (i.e. Regents, Legislators, etc.)*
- III. Scope/background of research proposed (up to one-half page)
- IV. Specific aims/objectives/goals (up to one-half page)



- V. Methods/approach (up to one page)
- VI. Expected outcomes (up to one-half page)
- VII. Description of how research meets program goals (up to one page)
- VIII. Two-page biographical sketch/CV of principal investigator(s)
- IX. Proposed budget and budget justification (personnel, supplies, equipment\*, travel\*)  
\*equipment and travel should be well-justified
- X. Matching funds, if available, and source (with appropriate authorizing signature(s))
- XI. One page, or less, of references cited

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of how they address Montana needs, innovation, feasibility, scientific/academic merit, expected outcomes, ability to generate funding from federal, state, and/or private sources, and potential to contribute to the growth of Montana's economy. Those proposals that do not follow the format outlined above will not be reviewed.

### Submission Process

Proposals are due on or before COB May 26, 2015, to the campus' Chief Research Officer.

### Review Process

There is a two-step review process. The first is the scientific review at the campus level. The second level of review is performed by the Research Initiative Advisory Committee that will make recommendations to the Commissioner of Higher Education. Only applications that are recommended for approval at both the campus level and the Advisory Committee will be recommended for funding. *Proposals selected for second level review will be required to make short oral presentations on June 25, 2015, in front of the Research Initiative Advisory Committee in Helena.*

**Grant award amounts:** up to \$2.5M total per proposal; awards must be spent within a two year funding cycle starting on July 1, 2015

**Overhead/F&A/Indirect Cost Recovery:** Not allowed with this funding source



## Reporting Requirements

A report on the project is due on the first anniversary of funding, as well as at the conclusion of the two year funding cycle. In addition to the reporting requirements below, the MUS Research Director will monitor progress, conduct in person/on-site meetings, and gather additional information on each funded proposal.

The following items must be addressed in the annual reports:

- i. Describe how the project has contributed to meeting the overall MUS Research Initiative programmatic goals:
  1. Address Montana issues/needs - *solve Montana problems with Montana solutions*
  2. Create Montana jobs - *create good Montana private-sector jobs*
  3. Help support the Montana economy - *grow emerging and important research sectors that contribute to the diversity of Montana's economy*
  4. Provide a strong ROI to Montana – *leverage the MUS research enterprise*
- ii. Compare the accomplishments of the project in quantitative and qualitative terms with the objectives proposed in the application.
- iii. Describe long-term impact (such as spin-off programs or other indicators) that will result from the project. How did the project affect your ability to attract additional federal or non-federal financial support, either for the project or for activities that grew out of the project?
- iv. Indicate what grant products were produced during the course of the project and any future publication or distribution plans for materials resulting from grant activities.