

MUSC College of Medicine Office of Community Engagement  
**“Dream maker” grant announcement and call for proposals**

You are a student and dream of doing *something* but you need funding to get started. We are here to help! The Office of Community Engagement announces the first round of dream-maker grants for students aiming to be involved in a community-focused project, including research, new program development or existing program expansion. Grant amounts range from **\$2000-\$4000** given once with the potential for re-application the following year. These grants are meant to serve as seed funding for relatively “smaller” initiatives that can grow in scope/size and possibly apply for larger funding through other agencies in future or serve as the foundation for programs that will continue beyond the funded year(s). Applicants are encouraged to think more “long term” and less short-term “one-off” projects that tend to have less potential for nurturing relationships with communities. Regardless of your proposal, we want to see a high potential for strengthening bi-directional communication and for growth over time. Your community of focus is your **partner** in this, not simply a recipient. Proposals should highlight the bi-directional working relationships with communities and include a plan for sustainability beyond the duration of the funding provided by these grants.

The “micro-loan” format of this grant reinforces our dedication to investing in your ideas and encouraging forward-thinking longitudinal programs. Students are required to “pay back” the grant with production of outcomes. Examples of ways to “pay back” the micro loan include establishing a firm foundation/well established program integrated into an agency or school’s usual offerings, toolkits that allow wider shared how-to for others, and media contributions to the resource library housed on the COM Office of Community Engagement website. Students will be required to have two mentors including one based in or having a strong connection to the community of interest. Successful applicants will be required to submit a report outlining their use of the funding, outcomes and how they have “paid back” the grant at the end of 12 months from the award date.

**Eligibility:**

Students in the COM in good academic and professional standing.

While students of all years can apply, the required final report must be submitted *by* 12 months from start of the grant **and** prior to graduation if an M4 is the main student recipient of the grant.

**Requirements of the application:**

--**written proposal** submitted to the Office of Community Engagement via Google Form found here <https://forms.gle/kqPSasFBcKyMk8iUA>. The proposal must include the aim(s) of the proposed work, deliverable(s), significance to the community and budget.

-- **Have 2 identified mentors, including one based in or strongly connected to the community of interest.** This community-based mentor may serve as primarily an advisor to the student and not be working directly on the project.

--Within the proposal the student must identify a defined community. This may be local, regional, international, virtual or in person, and defined in various ways. A community is defined by characteristics that identify its members and can be many descriptors (e.g school grade, age range, gender identity etc), not only geographical.  
--One letter of support. This can be from the student's community-based mentor.  
--Two listed references.

**Due dates:** Awards will be given on a quarterly basis: March, June, September and December. The window for this round of applications is: **October 1-November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**The Google forms portal will open to start receiving applications on October 1st, 2022.**

**The portal will close at 5 pm November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Awardees will be notified by **December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

**Application evaluation:** all applications from eligible students will receive fair consideration by the CE Advisory Board. Proposals will be assessed based on several factors including strength of partnership with community and community mentor, innovation, potential of impact (short and long term) on both the community as well as student/applicant.

(Stay tuned for future opportunities! The next round of calls for proposals will be released January 1, 2023.)

Please direct questions regarding this opportunity to Dr Anita Ramsetty, MD CCMS at [ramsetty@musc.edu](mailto:ramsetty@musc.edu).