

University of Minnesota School of Public Health Cannabis Research Center 2024 Small Grants to Support Student Projects RFA

As part of the 2023 law to legalize the use of cannabis by adults in Minnesota, the legislature designated funding to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health to establish a Cannabis Research Center (CRC). The CRC strives to understand the public health implications of cannabis legalization. To accomplish this, the CRC will provide, interpret, and disseminate research information to guide policy and practice related to cannabis use in Minnesota. The CRC will conduct timely and cutting-edge research on both the positive and negative public health effects of cannabis legalization across the lifespan and will study issues pertaining to equity in cannabis production, sales, marketing, and use. Importantly, the CRC will address key research questions asked by community members, community leaders, policymakers, and other partners in Minnesota pertaining to cannabis legalization. Finally, the CRC will train and support future practitioners and scholars to engage in research related to cannabis policy and its effects on health and health equity.

Small Grants Program

The CRC announces a small grants funding program to support student projects involving cannabis-related research. The legislation specifies that the CRC “must investigate the effects of cannabis use on health, and research other topics related to cannabis, including but not limited to prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, equity issues, education and decriminalization”. We are interested in supporting a broad range of student-led research projects that align with the [CRC mission and goals](#).

Project Funding

This call for proposals is intended to fund student-led research projects on novel topics that may include original data collection, secondary data analysis, or pilot studies. Each application is capped at \$10K over a period not exceeding 12 months. The CRC anticipates funding 3-4 awards in 2024 (see key dates below). A final report summarizing research activities and results must be received within one month of the end of the grant funding period (a template for the final report will be provided).

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be full-time Masters or PhD students at the University of Minnesota. Applicants may receive one award during their training. Priority will be given to proposals that address equity issues and proposals by students in the School of Public Health.

Application Process

The proposal (**max 3-pages** [single-spaced, 11-point Arial font], not including budget) is due by **May 15, 2024 (5:00 PM CST)**. Please email all submission materials to cannabisrc@umn.edu. The proposal should be organized using the information below.

- 1) Title, Student PI, Faculty Advisor and Co-investigators, Affiliations
- 2) Aims
- 3) Significance/Rationale/Impact
- 4) Approach
 - a) Community Partners (optional)
 - b) Study Design
 - c) Participants
 - d) Data and Measures
 - e) Analysis Plan
 - f) Dissemination Plans
 - g) Timeline
 - h) Human Subjects
- 5) Discussion how the project addresses health equity
- 6) Products (e.g., articles, briefs)
- 7) Excel Budget Spreadsheet (a template is available on request by email; include any other funding secured for the project)

Review Criteria and Process

Each application will be reviewed by 3 reviewers. Scoring will be based on the NIH system. Each application will receive a score on: Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigators, and Environment. Fit with CRC priority areas and health equity focus will also be considered in evaluating applications. Funding will be contingent on IRB approval. Award notifications will be made by **June 14, 2024**.

Key Dates

- Proposals due **May 15, 2024**
- Award notification by **June 14, 2024**

Contact

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