

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 provides, interprets, and disseminates research information to guide policy and practice related to cannabis use in Minnesota. The CRC conducts timely and relevant research on both the positive and negative public health effects of cannabis legalization across the lifespan and studies issues pertaining to equity in cannabis production, sales, marketing, and use. Importantly, the CRC addresses key research questions asked by community members, community leaders, policymakers, and other partners in Minnesota pertaining to cannabis legalization. Finally, the CRC trains and supports 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 **Fall 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 Masters or PhD students in degree seeking programs 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 **November 1, 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)

Please note: Cannabis Research Center staff are available to answer technical assistance questions. Typical questions that we help answer for researchers are: What is currently happening with cannabis legalization and implementation in Minnesota? How does cannabis potentially relate to a wide range of health and equity-related issues? What are existing sources of cannabis-related data? If you have technical assistance questions, email cannabisrc@umn.edu.

Review Criteria and Process

Each application will be reviewed by 3 reviewers. Applications will be scored on: Public Health Significance, Aims, Approach/Methods, Timeline and Budget. 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 **December 6, 2024**.

Key Dates

- Proposals due **November 1, 2024**
- Award notification by **December 6, 2024**

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