UMass Dartmouth

2021-22 Community Engaged Research Fellowship

Community Research and Partnership Initiative

Applications due: May 13, 2021
Decisions: June 1, 2021
Fellowships begin: Fall 2021

Sponsored by the Office of Research
Vice Provost for Research & Academic Affairs

UMass | Dartmouth

Community Research and Partnership Initiative (CoRPI)
Overview

CoRPI's Mission

To bring together faculty, students, and community members to build innovative research partnerships that seek to understand local issues, frame questions, and build capacity to improve socioeconomic, health, educational, and environmental conditions.

Mission Principles

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1. To support and promote community-engaged faculty research and scholarship.
2. Ensure that community-engaged scholarship is rewarded.
3. To create meaningful and lasting community relationships and partnerships.
4. To collaborate with community partners to identify issues and opportunities, and engage in research that leads to actions and applied solutions that respond to challenges confronted by the community.
5. To result in increased partnership and research output that has meaningful impacts on communities we serve and furthers the public mission of the university.

CoRPI Fellows Program

The UMass Dartmouth Community Research and Partnership Initiative will sponsor up to three Fellows per year who are actively working on community engaged research projects. CoRPI provides support for Fellows to develop funded research projects and seek outside grants to further their research agendas.

What is Community Engaged Research?

Research partnerships involve a power dynamic that results from who comes up with the research questions, who plans the agenda, who controls the resources, and who benefits most from the partnerships. In the case of community-based research, this has traditionally skewed heavily toward the university or faculty member. However, more national funders are looking to change this dynamic to involve the community partners at earlier stages of developing research questions while seeking outcomes that benefit both the university and the community equally. UMass Dartmouth, with its rich tradition of service learning courses and community service, is looking to expand its research portfolio by supporting community engaged research programs.

CER occurs in and impacts local and global communities. CER encourages faculty and students to become more civic-minded and think critically about our role in our society and conceptualize our research agendas as having a reciprocal relationship with our communities. CER encourages faculty to help community partners solve problems, enact social justice, navigate socio-political and economic issues, collect and analyze data, and develop skills that they would not otherwise be able to achieve on their own. CER at UMass Dartmouth also seeks to counterbalance the historically faculty-centric posture of our community relationships by onboarding community partners at the earliest stages of the research process.

This RFP seeks to incentivize faculty-community collaborative research programs that are attractive to foundations and government funding agencies, and that further the mission of the university.

Rationale

CoRPI embraces new perspectives in bringing together robust research programs and community organizations. CoRPI seeks to support researchers who partner with community members and various stakeholders in long-term collaborations that engage in qualitative and quantitative, evidence-based research that benefits both the university and the social, economic, and/or ecological well-being of local communities.

Our aim is to leverage the interdisciplinary skills and resources of UMass Dartmouth by connecting to local ways of knowing and situated skill-sets within the community. We want to support research programs that seek to understand problems, brainstorm solutions, and build capacity to sustain and envision new futures together with community partners.

CoRPI sees community partners and researchers as co-equal branches of any collaborative endeavor. Moreover, we recognize that community engaged research is often interdisciplinary in nature and exists within an undefined continuum between community involvement and researcher control. Reframing community engagement as research brings collaborative efforts together while maintaining academic rigor and promoting new opportunities for research agendas, particularly those outside of the traditional hard and social sciences.

What We Support

Community Research and Partnership Initiative Grants are intended to support projects that aim to solve community-based problems through comprehensive qualitative and/or quantitative data collection, rigorous analysis, and effective research design.
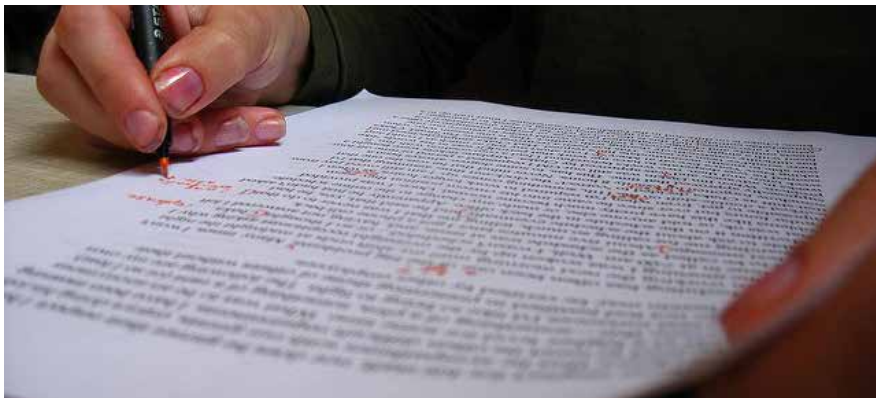
Community Research and Partnership Grants *are not* intended to support the development of courses or curriculum, or support service learning courses.

Successful applications will propose to create knowledge that informs both academic and community decision making. The proposed research program should be relevant to the applicants' field(s) of study. CoRPI particularly welcomes novel research initiatives as well as projects that are team-based, collaborative, and/or cross-disciplinary.

Community Research and Partnership Initiative (CoRPI)
Fellowships

Funding & Support

CoRPI offers support for research projects at various stages of development. **Exploratory** projects seek to develop an idea or get a program off the ground. CoRPI can help the move toward funding for a project that has not been implemented before. **Developing** projects might have an existing research program that is not community focused, or might be conceptually community focused but lacks partnerships. For these types of projects, CoRPI will help to make matches with community members, establish new partnerships, find new sources of funding, or add a community-engaged component to an existing research project. CoRPI can also help **Established** researchers move an existing community-engaged research project to the next level and secure major grants from national and international funders.
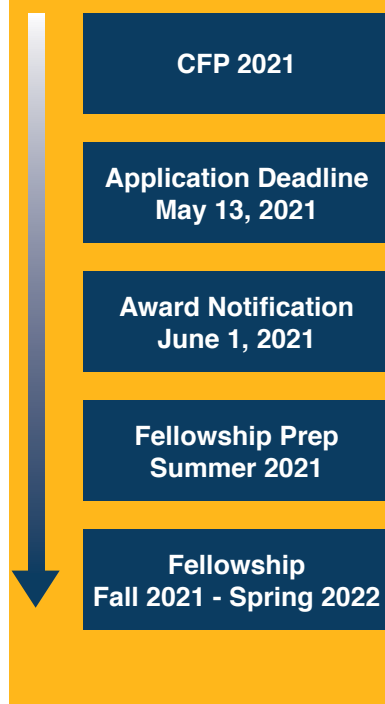
CoRPI Fellows receive:

- One funded course release
- Grant writing assistance
- Project development support including connections to community partners
- $2000 stipend to put toward faculty mentoring program
- Additional resources considered on a case-by-case basis

Expectations and Deliverables

The expectation of CoRPI Fellows is that they work to develop and submit grant proposals to outside funding agencies. The expectations of a CoRPI Fellow are as follows:

1. Fellows will identify, plan, and work with an external mentor.
2. Fellows will provide monthly written and oral updates to, and meet with, the Director and Associate Director of CoRPI on progress toward completion. These updates will include but not be limited to the sections of the written proposals towards a grant submission(s), as well as the details of the support they are receiving from mentors.
3. Fellows will within one year of their appointment will submit *at minimum* one significant ($75,000+), or two smaller external grant application to fund their research agenda.
4. Fellows will share their work with colleagues and community partners at university-sponsored events. All of the presentations and written documents must include acknowledgment of CoRPI fellowship support.
5. Fellows will submit a report to be included in CoRPI's annual report that will summarize progress in achieving the aims of the research project, including scholarly publications, grants, or reports (including links or electronic copies when applicable). Published scholarly work supported by this program will include acknowledgment of CoRPI.
6. Fellows will agree to support future Fellows by contributing one third of F&A indirect return to CoRPI for the next three years beyond the end of their Fellowship as long as they remain at UMass Dartmouth..

Timeline

- **CFP 2021**
- **Application Deadline**
  May 13, 2021
- **Award Notification**
  June 1, 2021
- **Fellowship Prep**
  Summer 2021
- **Fellowship**
  Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by CoRPI officers and affiliated faculty. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Clarity of the application and description of the research program that is free of jargon and understandable by a general audience of readers
- Clarity of the goals and specific aims of the research
- Relevance of the aims to community-engaged research and learning
- Scholarly merit, feasibility, and/or innovativeness of the research approach and methods
- Experience and expertise of the investigators to carry out the research with clear expectations of the time and resources available
- Clear and achievable work plan for submitting external grant applications
- Dissemination plan that is appropriate to the audiences for whom the research is most relevant

Proposal Guidelines

- **Cover Page** that includes:
  - Research title
  - Name of researcher, department, and college
  - Abstract/summary: executive summary of the proposal that briefly describes the goals, specific aims and approach, potential benefit of findings to research/scholarship, and/or communities
- **Letter of Support** from the Department Chair that includes language that, if awarded, course release time will be accommodated by the department.
- **Letter of Collaboration** from the community partner(s) describing the role that the partner expects to play in the collaboration.
- **Narrative** that should <u>not exceed</u> three single-spaced pages with Times New Roman, 12 pt font and 1" margins. The narrative should include the following:
  - A. *Introduction:* Provide 1) an overview of the research project that includes how developed the project is (exploratory, developing, or established), 2) the problem or need it seeks to address, 3) a statement on the intellectual merit, 4) the broader impacts or potential of the project, 5) the goals and objectives of the research. *(Note that this section should take up the bulk of your narrative and will be the most heavily weighted).
  - B. *Community Orientation:* Describe how this project will be community-oriented, the community partner, their role, and key members of the partner organization and their roles in the project.
  - C. *Aims:* Briefly describe the specific aims of the project and the relevance of the aims to both disciplinary knowledge and other public or community-oriented purposes.
  - D. *Methodology:* Briefly describe the proposed methods or approaches that will be used to achieve the aims.
  - E. *Outcomes:* Briefly specify the outcomes that you envision from this program
  - F. *Work Plan:* Briefly describe a rough timeline or work plan.
- **CV**. Include your full curriculum vitae.

Application Instructions

Go to the UMass Dartmouth grant application portal https://umassd.infoready4.com/# and select "2021-22 CoRPI Fellowship"

Proposals must include the following as .pdf documents:

- Cover Page. This document should be titled: "Yourlastname_Cover.pdf"
- Letter of department support. This document should be titled: "Yourlastname_Department_Support.pdf"
- Letter of community partnership. This document should be titled: "Yourlastname_Community_Partnership.pdf"
- Narrative. This document should be titled: "Yourlastname_Narrative.pdf"
- CV. This document should be titled: "Yourlastname_CV.pdf"