Community Feasibility Grants Request for Proposals

**Iowa Healthy Lakes Initiative: A multi-dimensional approach to measuring, informing, and solving Iowa’s Harmful Algal Bloom Challenge**

Iowa’s lakes are critical drinking water sources, with important economic and social value. Nevertheless, lakes across Iowa and the Midwest are experiencing frequent harmful algal blooms (HABs) that imperil the health of people, pets, and ecosystems, and they impede Iowa’s sustainable development goals. Current understanding of HABs is limited by complex, interacting biogeochemical and physical processes that lead to highly dynamic HAB formation in space and time, resulting in challenges for predicting and mitigating risk to lake users. Current approaches fail to promptly report HABs and associated health advisories essential for developing exposure risk tools and stakeholder-driven solutions.

There is a critical need to understand and address Iowa’s HAB challenge through a multifaceted, interdisciplinary approach. A team of scholars from public health and communication, policy, environmental sensing, physical and biochemical, and environmental engineering, have come together to develop solutions and improve the health of Iowa lakes.

The team invites applications for awards ranging from $5,000 to $30,000 to address aspects of Iowa’s HAB challenge, from liberal arts, including fine arts, and science to engineering, employing basic and applied research approaches to characterize, understand, quantify the risks, improving prediction, and advise policy and public engagement. We encourage applications from artists, scientists, engineers, communicators, and researchers addressing social and environmental justice.

Proposals must include at least two PIs from different departments, from faculty, staff, and postdoctoral investigators, who will engage in a team science approach, to establish new collaborations toward building a network of scholars focused on addressing Iowa’s HAB challenge.

Inquiries can be addressed to corey-markfort@uiowa.edu

**Eligibility**

All UI researchers, including faculty, staff, and postdocs (postdocs must partner with a faculty member), are eligible to apply. Teams must consist of members from at least two different departments. A team may include no more than one Iowa Healthy Lakes Initiative Jumpstart team member (currently unfunded).

**Budget**

Awards will be for one year and may range from $5,000 to $30,000.

- All program costs are allowable with rational justification
  - Funds must be used for activities primarily at the University of Iowa
  - Any funds for outside partners or activities must be limited, pre-approved, and clearly justified in the proposal
  - Travel is allowed for activities conducted for research, faculty retreats, and convening meetings
  - Faculty salary is not allowed
  - Can include non-UI members, in addition to two UI investigators
  - Honorariums for non-UI members are allowed
Important Dates
Applications are due by 5:00 pm on June 10th. Awards will be announced the week of June 20th, with funds available no sooner than July 1st.

Proposal Guidelines
Proposals should be no more than 3-pages. References, budget justification, letters of commitment, and other appendices are not counted towards the page limit.

- Executive Summary (250 words or less, for a non-technical audience)
- Project Narrative (2 to 3 pages, depending on size of the project)
  - Identify specific research goals and activities designed to address the goals
  - Identify potential collaboration partners
  - Project timeline
  - Anticipated outcomes and broader impacts
- References
- **Budget** (template provided)
- Budget Justification
- Biosketches (1-2 pg for each PI)
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable)

Review Criteria
Proposals will be reviewed by the members of the Iowa Healthy Lakes team (conflicts of interest will be considered) with the following criteria:

- **Significance**: The project addresses an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field.
- **Convergence**: The project aims to develop multi-PI teams that will open new research and funding opportunities.
- **Approach**: The proposed strategy, methodology, and analyses are reasonable and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- **Budget**: The proposed budget is reasonable and justified to address the project aims.
- **Investigators**: The research team has the required qualifications and a demonstrated track record to accomplish the project.

Reporting Requirements
A final project report detailing the project activities and outcomes must be submitted by July 1st, 2023.

Submission Process
Proposals should be submitted to the [InfoReady portal](#) using your HawkID and password. Contact brittany-ryan@uiowa.edu with submission portal questions.