

## Research, Engagement, and Academic Diversity Grant Social Innovation or Entrepreneurship Project Application Preview- Faculty

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### Intro Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Research, Engagement and Academic Diversity (READ) Grant.

Before beginning this application, please note that if you log out of the application, you must log back in on the same computer to pick up where you left off. Additionally, you will be required to upload the following documents at the end of the application. Please prepare these materials in advance so you can submit them with your application:

- Budget: READ Budget Template
- Project Timeline
- Student-Faculty Contract: READ Student-Faculty Contract
- Transcripts (students only)
- Letter of support from any relevant partners (partners are encouraged)

If you have any questions, please contact the READ Team at [ugresearch@niu.edu](mailto:ugresearch@niu.edu).

**Are you a student or a faculty member?**

Student or Faculty

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### What type of project will you be completing if granted funds?

*Social Entrepreneurship Project:* Project that develops, funds and implements solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues. Results in positive return to society.

*Social Innovation Project:* Process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress.

Different from social entrepreneurship because the focus is on the ideas and solutions that create social value regardless of where they are coming from.

*Research/Scholarship/Artistry Project:*

- Main purpose is to contribute to the body of knowledge on a specific topic
- Intends to serve the academic community
- Pursues the "truth" and "objectivity"
- Controlled by the researcher/artist

*Community-Based Research Project:*

- Main purpose is to provide the community with tools and information to enact change
- Intends to serve the local and academic communities

- Pursues community empowerment and mutual learning
- Controlled by community members and researcher/artist

**Faculty Contact Info**

Contact Information - Faculty Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

NIU ID \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any pending grant applications: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Information - If you have selected the student(s) who will be working on the project, please list their contact information below. If not, please skip this question.**

Faculty are encouraged to recruit students from underrepresented populations. For the purpose of the READ grant, underrepresented is defined as African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Alaskan Native/American Indian.

Student First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Z-ID \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Underrepresented Minority Group of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Z-ID \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Underrepresented Minority Group of Student \_\_\_\_\_

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## Social Entrepreneurship or Social Innovation Project Information

You will now be directed to application questions related to social entrepreneurship or social innovation with a particular focus on social and cultural issues.

Please read through the following information to determine which category your project falls under. Applicants that are able to clearly articulate their project type are more likely to receive funding.

*Social Entrepreneurship Project:* Project that develops, funds and implements solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues. Results in positive return to society.

*Social Innovation Project:* Process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress. Different from social entrepreneurship because the focus is on the ideas and solutions that create social value regardless of where they are coming from.

Social Entrepreneurship or Social Innovation

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Background

Explain the present state of knowledge and understanding of the community you will be working with or in your field of study, using proper citations when necessary. Provide the background of the topic in an engaging manner (e.g., relate topic to reader, raise interesting questions, note topics importance in field, etc.). Include descriptions of any partnering organizations. Make it clear why you want to do this project and why it needs to be undertaken to fill a gap in knowledge.

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### Broader Impacts Statement

Explain the significance of your project and its potential to benefit society or contribute to achieving specific societal outcomes (i.e. the big picture)

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### Project Milestones

Identify at least six project milestones

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### Sustainability Statement

How will this project be sustained beyond READ funding?

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Will this project require travel?

Yes, please explain

No

### Additional Documents

Download and submit the budget template, available here: [READ Budget Template](#)

All applicants are required to submit an itemized budget when completing the READ application whether you are applying for reimbursement, compensation, funding for conference travel/study abroad, or a combination of the three. Each category requires a separate budget. Any budget submission that is not completed using the provided template will not be considered. It is important that applicants are as specific as possible when submitting their budget, including the following information:

- Description of item (including the cost and quantity)
- Justification of why the item is essential for the project's success
- Compensation applicants- describe the amount of hours you plan to work on the project per week
- Distinguish if the purchase will be made by the student or the Department
  - *Items purchased by the student directly- examples include: travel, hotel, poster printing, registration for a conference, training cost, food, program cost for study abroad, etc.*
  - *Items purchased by the department (these will require NIU property tag with a few exceptions) - examples include: group travel, software, hardware, other equipment, books, lab safety gear, and data storage.*

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to):

- Project supplies
- Travel related to research or project
- Conference travel for undergraduate students (must be presenting outcomes from this project)

- Compensation for undergraduates
- Printing costs

**NOTE: For Travel and Study Abroad/Away applications, the budget MUST include: mileage, airfare, hotel/lodging, registration fees, per diem costs, and any miscellaneous expenses.**

**Upload a detailed timeline of your proposed project.**

**Download and submit the Student Faculty Contract, available here: [READ Student-Faculty Contract](#).** Faculty, if you have a student selected for your project, please submit this as well.

PREVIEW