

Research on Advancing Rural Postsecondary Education

Request for Proposal FAQ

Deadline: July 14, 2024

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Q: Can for-profit policy research firms qualify to submit RFPs and receive funding with your organization?

A: Only non-profits registered as a U.S. 501(c)(3) or a 509(a)(1), (2), or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for the research RFP. If you intend to submit an LOI, you'd have to have the institution/nonprofit you are partnering with submit.

Q: Where do I access the LOI form?

A: The [full RFP](#) has the link to the [LOI form](#) on page 8.

Q: My institution is eligible to apply. Will technical assistance be available to prepare our proposal?

A: ECMC Foundation will not provide any technical assistance. We are looking for projects that institutions feel are most valuable to their students and communities. Therefore, the research design, questions, and methodology should be based on what is important in that rural context.

Q: Will you take calls to discuss different project ideas that might be aligned with the goals of the rural research RFP?

A: Given the high level of interest in the research RFP and to ensure an equitable process, we are not scheduling calls specifically about the RFP or potential research projects.

Q: Can research projects leverage existing survey instruments and datasets rather than create new ones?

A: Yes. We are not requiring applicants to create a new instrument or collect new data.

Q: Is it acceptable at the LOI stage to name potential rural educational partners rather than having formalized partnerships?

A: Please use the LOI to describe the conversations your organization has engaged with potential partners and whether there is an existing relationship. ECMC Foundation wants to focus on projects where there is already rural community buy-in because trust and rapport are so important, and we want to be mindful that with research, rural communities have been places of knowledge extraction.

Q: Our research-practice partnership comprises a university and a professional association. Which should we describe for the Leadership Composition question?

A: The board and executive leadership composition section should refer to the organization receiving the grant from ECMC Foundation.

Q: Can my organization submit more than one proposal at a time?

A: Yes, as long as the proposals are for different projects and there are different principal investigators, it is acceptable for an organization to submit multiple applications simultaneously.