

MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (IRAEA)

Research Grants Program

Criteria, Expectations, and Request for Proposals

2018-2019

The deadline for proposals is 5:00 p.m. May 15, 2018.

montana.edu/regecon/researchgrants

The mission of the MSU IRAEA is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in academic research that will further the understanding of economic regulation and policy's impact on societal well-being. IRAEA facilitates research, analysis, and teaching of regulatory economics as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other sectors.

IRAEA Research Grants Program

IRAEA provides annual research grants for MSU faculty members to conduct research projects related to the IRAEA mission. Grants are awarded through an MSU-wide competitive process.

Examples of potential research projects (note that these are examples, not recommendations or requirements; a full listing of previously funded projects is available at:

<http://www.montana.edu/regecon/researchgrants.html>):

- The impacts of regulation of biological and chemical pesticide control technologies in agriculture
- The impacts of regulation, technology and/or health professional certification and licensing regulations on the development of healthcare-related products, healthcare access and healthcare quality
- The impacts of technology and/or policy and regulation on educational services and educational quality
- The impacts of technology and/or criminal justice policy and regulation on state and federal penal systems, recidivism, and crime rates

Consistent with the IRAEA mission, the involvement of students in research is important and strongly encouraged; research programs should focus on policy at the state, regional, and/or national level, and should have a high likelihood of leading to independent funding. Additional funding for student involvement in the research is available on a competitive basis through the IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholars program. Additional funding to support research-related visits to MSU by visiting scholars is available through the IRAEA Visiting Scholars program.

Eligibility

Any MSU faculty member engaged in research related to regulatory and policy issues is eligible to apply. Research must include a component that addresses the impact of regulation and/or policy in agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, or other related sectors. Interdisciplinary research proposals and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are welcome, and faculty members outside economics are encouraged to reach out to Vince Smith (vsmith@montana.edu) or Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) for assistance in identifying potential ways to include economic regulation and policy analysis in their projects.

Award Amounts

Awards are up to \$12,500 and the period of performance will be one year from receipt of the grant. The grant period runs August 15 through August 15 of each year. Funding for successful applications must be expended by the end of August for each grant period. Research grantees may apply for competitive renewal in subsequent years.

Research Project Expectations

- (1) Conduct research on topics covered by the Initiative's mission and submit their resulting research papers to peer-reviewed academic journals.
- (2) Produce publicly accessible working papers (publication under review) to inform law makers, policy advisors, and the general public of the research findings and provide detailed technical information about how the research was conducted. The IRAEA research associate can assist with this process.
- (3) Produce policy issues white papers (a condensed version of published paper written in language accessible to non-specialists) to inform law makers, policy advisors, and the general public of the research findings. The IRAEA research associate is available to assist with this process.
- (4) Present a research seminar on the research project that is open to faculty, students and the general public.

- (5) Grantees are required to submit a brief end-of-project report in PDF format outlining how the work fulfills each of the project expectations described above. Reports should be 1,000 or fewer words and submitted to IRAEA co-directors as well as the communications specialist.
- (6) Grantees are asked to provide co-directors and the communications specialist with research presentations and any/all other outreach materials developed and presented that pertains to the IRAEA research project. Grantees are also asked to participate in the Initiative's outreach efforts including video interviews and news stories regarding research and outcomes. Researchers are encouraged to communicate with IRAEA's communications specialist, Carmen Price, to publicize publications, working papers, and seminars and to assist with formatting working papers and seminar presentations with branded communication materials.
- (7) Grantees are expected to follow all MSU and academic journal policies regarding conflicts of interest and acknowledgement of financial support for their research. Grantees are also strongly encouraged to acknowledge IRAEA in presentations as well as in academic journal and other publications upon acceptance of their work for publication.

Research Grant Proposal Requirements

Proposals should include items 1-4 below and a current curriculum vita/biosketch (two-page limit) that provides either evidence of research experience in the economics of regulatory and policy analysis or evidence of potential to conduct high-quality research in regulatory and policy analysis.

1. Proposal narrative (2-4 pages) Provide a description of the research plan, written in the order listed below. Each section should begin with a section header (e.g., Abstract, Specific Aims, etc.).
 - a. Abstract (150 word limit)
 - b. Statement of Specific Aims of the Project: Statement of the regulatory/policy issue that the research will address, hypothesis, and a description of the rationale and economic basis for the proposed research.
 - c. Significance of the Project: Description of the importance of the regulatory/policy issue being addressed, how the research project will improve our knowledge regarding the regulatory/policy issue, including how the research could potentially help policy makers addressing the regulatory/policy issue, and a description of how the research fits into the IRAEA mission.

- d. Innovation: Brief explanation of how the project is creative, unique, and innovative, and how the project moves the applicant's research program forward.
 - e. Approach (Design and Methods): Provide a clear research plan that includes the various stages commonly used in economics research (e.g., assessment of current state of research on the issue, describing the underlying economic theory that applies to the research, specifying research methods to be used, obtaining data needed, generating research results, producing a working paper, getting expert feedback, and producing the research paper for submission).
2. Human Subjects, if applicable, all researchers must abide by all human subjects requirements as described by the MSU Institutional Review Board (<http://www.montana.edu/irb/>). Researchers must identify whether their research project includes human subjects (including human subjects data), and if so, provide a CITI human subjects training certification (see <https://www.citiprogram.org/>) and an IRB approval letter (or exemption letter) or evidence that IRB approval is pending.
 3. Itemized budget and budget justification for the proposed one year grant period. The budget may include, but is not limited to, summer salary, equipment, data gathering, and other research-related expenses, and for the principal investigator to travel to attend conferences to present results. Budget cannot be used for students, faculty, or staff who are not affiliated with MSU.
 4. Project Timeline that clarifies the goals, objectives, and work to be accomplished during the granting period, including a timeline for writing white papers and policy briefs and presenting a research seminar on the research project that is open to faculty, students and the general public.

Deadline and Submission Requirements

The deadline for proposals is 5:00 p.m. May 15, 2018.

- (1) Applicants should complete an OSP Electronic Proposal Clearance Form via the Office of Sponsored Programs website: <http://www.montana.edu/research/osp/>. Prepare a "Full Proposal Form" and select the sponsor, "Charles Koch Foundation (CHAKOC) [P]."
- (2) Applicants should include their proposal as an attachment on the clearance form. Attachments must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
- (3) An electronic version of the complete proposal should also be sent to Tamara Moe, Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics, at tamara.moe@montana.edu

Please feel free to contact Dr. Vincent Smith (994-5615, vsmith@montana.edu) or Dr. Wendy Stock (994-7984, wstock@montana.edu) at any time with questions about the proposal format and/or instructions or to discuss potential project ideas.

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by the IRAEA Research Grants Selection Committee soon after the submission deadline. The Selection Committee is comprised of the IRAEA co-directors, the IRAEA Research Fellows (with the exception that Research Fellows may not be part of the selection process for their own grant proposals).

The selection committee will score proposals using the NIH 1-9 scale (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_guidance_research.pdf) for overall impact and individual review criteria (Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach, and Potential for External Funding) and will include written comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.