

Proposed MSU Center for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (CRAEA)

Research Grants Program Criteria, Expectations, and Request for Proposals

The mission of the proposed MSU CRAEA 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.

The proposed Center will achieve its mission by:

- Facilitating research, analysis, and teaching of regulatory economics as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other sectors.
- Leveraging the University's geographic position and research track record to inform the public policy debate on state, regional, and national issues.
- Achieving lasting impact on undergraduate and graduate students by providing support to enable their research on relevant public policy topics.
- Enhancing the intellectual capital of MSU faculty and other universities or centers by providing research and teaching opportunities.

CRAEA Research Grants Program: The proposed Center will provide annual, potentially renewable research grants for MSU faculty members to conduct research projects related to the proposed Center's mission. Each year the proposed Center will award several research grants to faculty through an MSU-wide competitive grants program. The exact number of awards will be contingent on available funding. Each award will be in an amount of up to \$12,500 and the period of performance will be one year from receipt of the grant.

Examples of potential research projects (note that these are examples, not recommendations or requirements):

- The impacts of regulation of biological and chemical pesticide control technologies in agriculture
- The impacts Basel accord, Sarbanes Oxley and Dodd Frank regulations for banks, financial institutions, and borrowers
- The impacts of technology and/or health professional certification and licensing regulations on health care access and health care quality
- The impacts of regulation on the development and application of biofilm technologies
- 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

Research Project Expectations:

- (1) Conduct research on topics covered by the proposed Center’s mission and submit their resulting research papers to peer-reviewed academic journals.
- (2) Produce publicly accessible working papers (to be called CRAEA white papers) 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.
- (3) Produce policy issues papers (written in language accessible to non-specialists) to inform law makers, policy advisors, and the general public of the research findings.
- (4) Present a research seminar on the research project that is open to faculty, students and the general public.

Eligibility: MSU faculty engaged in research and economic analysis of regulatory issues as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other related sectors. Interdisciplinary research proposals and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are welcome.

Research Grant Proposal Requirements: Research Project Proposals should include items 1-4 below and a current curriculum vita/biosketch (2 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 CRAEA 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 and students involved on the project 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: Applicants should complete an OSP Electronic Proposal Clearance Form via the Office of Sponsored Programs website: <http://www.montana.edu/research/osp/>. An electronic version of the complete proposal should be submitted **no later than 11/15/2016** to Linda LaCrone, Assistant to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, lacrone@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 if you have questions about the proposal format and/or instructions or would like to discuss potential project ideas.

Proposal Review: Proposals will be reviewed by the CRAEA Research Grants Selection Committee (comprised of the CRAEA co-directors, the CRAEA Research Fellows (with the exception that Research Fellows may not be part of the selection process for their own grant proposals), and members of the CRAEA internal advisory committee) soon after the submission deadline.

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.

Awards are contingent upon the continued availability of CRAEA funding and are expected to be announced by 12/1/2016. Funding for successful applications must be expended by 12/1/2017. **No carryover will be allowed.** Renewal proposals will be solicited at the beginning of each granting period and will be awarded through a competitive process.