

MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

Research Fellows Program 2017-2019

Request for Proposals

The mission of the [MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis](#) 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 Initiative 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 of the U.S. economy.

Research Fellows Program: The Initiative provides research fellowships for MSU faculty members to pursue research programs related to the Initiative's mission; produce publicly accessible briefing papers and other communications that inform law makers, policy advisors and the general public on policy and regulatory issues related to the research; and participate in workshops and conferences organized by the Initiative. Information on the 2016-2018 Research Fellowship awards is available at: <http://www.montana.edu/regecon/researchfellows.html>

Under this call for proposals, research fellowship awards will be for the period August 1, 2017 to August 1, 2019. Successful applicants will receive funding in each of two periods: August 1, 2017 to August 1, 2018 and August 1, 2018 to August 1, 2019 – in the amount of \$20,000 (a total of \$40,000 over the entire period of the award) and an additional annual travel budget of up to \$3,000 in each period (a total of \$6,000 over the entire period of the award). Successful applicants for Research Fellow Awards will have the possibility for competitive renewal in subsequent years.

If applicable, additional funding for the research is also available on a competitive basis through the Initiative's [Undergraduate Research Scholars](#) program, and additional funding to support research-related visits to MSU by visiting scholars is available through the Initiative's [Visiting Scholars](#) program.

Consistent with the Initiative's 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.

Expectations: Research Fellows are expected to (A) conduct research programs and (B) meet the additional expectations of Research Fellows, as described below:

A. Research Program Expectations:

- (1) Conduct research on topics covered by the Initiative's mission and submit the resulting research papers to peer-reviewed academic journals.
- (2) Produce publicly accessible working papers (to be called "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 publicly accessible briefing papers and other communications that inform law makers, policy advisors and the general public on policy and regulatory issues related to the research.
- (4) Present a research seminar on the research that is open to faculty, students and the general public.

B. Additional Expectations of Research Fellows:

- (1) Organize and hold a workshop, seminar, and/or conference for law makers, policy advisors, interest groups and/or the general public related to the research project(s).
- (2) Serve on selection committees for the Initiative's [Research Grant](#), [Visiting Scholar](#), and [Undergraduate Research Scholar](#) programs (with the exception that Fellows may not be part of the selection process for their own proposals).
- (3) Apply for external grant funding to sustain their research program beyond the Fellowship period.
- (4) Provide substantive professional feedback to other Research Fellows, Research Grantees, and Visiting Scholars about their research projects.
- (5) Participate in the Initiative's research seminars, workshops, conferences, and other events.
- (6) Provide leadership in one of the Initiative's areas of focus, identifying emerging policy issues and areas of potential emphasis for future research support.

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, proposals from researchers outside the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are encouraged.

Research Fellows Proposal Requirements: Research Fellows Proposals should include: (1) items 1-4 below, (2) 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, and (3) a statement describing how the applicant will meet the additional expectations of Research Fellows described above.

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 Research Program:** 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 Program:** Description of the importance of the regulatory/policy issue being addressed, how the research 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 it fits into the Initiative's 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 research papers for submission*).

2. Human Subjects Where 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 two 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. Funds cannot

be used for students, faculty, or staff who are not affiliated with MSU. Funds may be used for course reduction buyouts, contingent on explicit approval from the faculty member's department head or, where applicable, division director.

If applicable, additional funding for undergraduate research scholars is also available on a competitive basis through the Initiative's [Undergraduate Research Scholars](#) program, and additional funding to support research-related visits to MSU by visiting scholars is available through the Initiative's [Visiting Scholars](#) program.

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:

- (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) The deadline for submission is Monday, July 17, 2017. An electronic version of the complete proposal should also be sent to Tamara Moe, Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics, at tamara.moe@montana.edu
- (4) Applicants may contact Dr. Vince 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 or opportunities for joint collaboration with faculty in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics.

Proposal Review: Proposals will be reviewed by the Research Fellows Selection Committee (comprised of the Initiative's co-directors and members of its 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 funding and are expected to be announced by 8/1/2017. Funding for successful applications must be expended by 8/1/2019. **No carryover beyond 8/1/2019 will be allowed.**

