

FY23 Salazar Center Request for Proposals: Urban Climate Resilience in Denver

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do all the research team members have to be CSU affiliated?

No. Only the Principal Investigator needs to be affiliated with CSU. We encourage the PI to assemble the best possible team to conduct the research regardless of the location of their affiliation. However, PIs should be aware that their department finance team is responsible for managing and administering the disbursement of funds to their team members.

Are only tenure track professors eligible to be Principal Investigators?

Any researcher affiliated with CSU may be a PI, whether they are pre- or post-tenure, affiliates, or staff with any of the relevant centers, institutes, departments, extension offices, or other campus entities.

How many grants will be awarded?

We anticipate the awarding of one to two grants. The total funding available is \$150,000.

What are ineligible budget items?

- Salary in excess of annual 12-month salary
- Costs relating to peer review publication
- Food
- Conference registration and affiliated costs
- Tuition

Can I use the funds for course buyouts?

Awarded funds may be used for course buyouts. However, the awardee must demonstrate that they have full approval from their department for the buyout prior to the finalization of the award.

What do you mean by actionable research?

Actionable research is applied research that can directly support decision-making by the City and County of Denver with regard to its climate management needs. It is research that can help drive real-world decision-making in a timely manner and will ultimately inform policy and/or program development.

What are some intended outcomes of the research?

The research is intended to provide data sets, information and/or planning tools that will assist DPR's efforts and decision making. It should provide outputs that assist DPR that can strategically support future spending or resource allocation for projects in the city within the themes in the RFP.

What are specific co-benefits expected to be included in the proposal?

Social and economic benefits are examples of relevant co-benefits DPR is interested in for this effort.



Do proposals have to be focused exclusively on one of the three themes?

No, proposals that span across two or more of the research themes will also be considered.

Are there resources to better understand the City of Denver Parks and Recreation work related to climate change?

Core strategic planning efforts that inform DPR's climate work include the [Game Plan for a Healthy City](#), its [Resiliency Program](#), and its [2019 Landscape Typology Manual](#).

Will the city of Denver share data relevant to the project?

Yes.

What do you mean by DPR managed lands?

DPR's funding has to be spent on city owned park land and the relevant right of ways in the urban area is the primary focus for this RFP.

Does DPR use a standard seed mix and can it be shared?

There are several standard seed mixes that can be modified or adapted for each project depending on conditions. The seed mix list can be shared upon request.

In which areas should proposals related to forestry/tree canopy focus on: only on canopy within existing parks, or can other areas be included? And is DPR interested in maintenance as well?

DPR is primarily interested in research for expanding the canopy in existing parks while balancing that with preserving spaces for landscape conversion (turf to native). DPR and the City Forester also manage rights of way, so those are also an area of interest for tree canopy expansion. There could be opportunities to partner with other municipal agencies (e.g., the Office of Green Infrastructure), and those opportunities could be explored through this research; but to implement that work, formal agreements would have to be created in the future with those entities.

Maintenance is of interest in terms of how DPR balances expanding the canopy with the larger conversation around water use and thinking about the adaptive landscape.

Are food forests included within the research themes?

Current city laws and regulations do not allow the City and County of Denver to grow any food forests. We would therefore not recommend making it the primary point of your application, though it could be a question to be explored within a larger proposal.

What does a diverse research team mean?

Diverse research team means a group of researchers from two or more scientific disciplines, like a biologist, a social scientist or physical scientist as part of your research team.



The RFP references developing a communications plan. What is that, and why do we need to work on one?

A co-developed communications plan will provide guidelines to support research partners—a CSU team selected through a competitive RFP process and the City and County of Denver/Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)—in working together to effectively communicate the findings of the research project. The goal is to develop and implement a communications plan that can support research findings quickly being acted on. Once developed, the plan will clearly outline what research findings should achieve, who can use those findings, how they can be shared, who can be the most effective communicator on behalf of the partnership, and which form(s) of communication is best to reach target audiences. The Salazar Center will host and facilitate one to two partnership meetings in which the group will have dedicated time to work together to create a communications plan.

How are proposals reviewed?

Submissions will be assessed by an evaluation committee comprising representatives from the Salazar Center, DPR, and CSU; committee members from CSU will be required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest prior to the evaluation period and may not serve as project PIs themselves.

Is the Center seeking proposals from the arts and humanities as well as from the sciences?

We encourage teams to be made up of a diverse cross section of disciplines that can include physical/biological sciences and arts and humanities.

I am unable to use funds for summer salary; can I propose something else?

Feel free to email jen.kovecses@colostate.edu to discuss your ideas.

Can funds be carried over to the next fiscal year?

Yes. We anticipate awarding grant funds in early FY23, and project work may continue into FY24. Project work should be complete by December 15, 2023, and the grantee’s project fund will close December 31, 2023.

I have an idea that doesn’t quite match this RFP but would benefit Denver Parks and Recreation climate goals. Can I propose something a little different?

We welcome innovative ideas from our campus experts. If you have an idea that you think is of value to addressing the City of Denver’s climate needs but is not listed in the RFP, please reach out to us first at jen.kovecses@colostate.edu to discuss your ideas prior to submitting a proposal.

Who will be the responsible entity managing funds for the awarded team?

The PI’s department will be responsible for managing the funds and transferring internally or externally to other partners.

Are subcontracts allowed, and if so, are there guidelines for these?

The Salazar Center does not have any rules prohibiting sub-contracting. As long as the PI’s department does not prohibit it, it is allowable. We do not have any guidelines. Each PI should work with their finance team to determine the department’s rules and guidance for sub-contracting.



Will the awardee’s account be set up as a CSU-sponsored project in a 53-account, administered through the Office of Sponsored Programs?

No, the funds are not administered through the Office of Sponsored Programs. The CSU Foundation holds the money and will internally transfer it to the PI’s home unit. PIs should consult with their departmental finance to make the final decision on the type of account. But the account should be unrestricted and able to accept these funds; one such account could be a 13XXXXX account. Project funds should be used to create a new, unique account and should not be combined with an existing departmental account.

What is the “CSU Unit Code” in the PI affiliation section?

This is referring to the PI department’s 4-digit org code.

Do applicants need to include indirect costs/overhead into the budget?

No, the budget does not have to include indirect costs.

