

Social Action Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Social Action Fund is committed to supporting student initiatives and projects that respond to community-identified needs and that generate significant social impact. The Fund is geared toward social action *projects*, and is intended to provide the resources necessary to bring student projects to the next level of implementation and impact. The Fund Committee can also aid students in developing a plan of action to enact their ideas.

What is a social action project?

A social action project can have its roots in any field (natural science, social science, humanities and arts, cognitive science, entrepreneurship, design, etc.), but all projects considered by the Social Action Fund Committee should have the same basic components:

- Respectfully engages the community impacted by the project
- Collaborate with mentors and members of the community
- Develop a concrete and actionable strategy
- Include opportunities for reflection
- Can be implemented with the time frame of the grant

Strong proposal ideas:

- *Real*: Identify and address an existing/pressing social problem and/or community need
- *Systemic*: Examine and address the root cause of a social problem, or facilitate that process
- *Scalable*: Potential to scale out or up in scope, or be replicated; the project itself can start small, but takes into consideration how the impact can be broadened
- *Innovative/Creative*: Demonstrate a new approach or application of an existing model, or engage new communities, etc.
- *Sustainable*: Plan can work within its available resources, and/or be implemented or sustain its impact beyond the scope of the award from the Social Action Fund

Application Process

Please see the **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES** for details on what proposals should include, and the process for submitting proposals. A faculty recommendation is highly encouraged.

Applications have a **ROLLING DEADLINE** and will be accepted throughout the year, though there are **LIMITED FUNDS**. Please contact us to discuss your project and initiate the application process.

Award

The average award amount is between \$300 and \$600, although the review committee may award more or less funding at their discretion and depending on funds available.



Social Action Fund

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please review the mission of the Social Action Fund and the elements of a strong proposal to generate a written proposal of your project that includes a detailed description of the project at-large, a timeline for project development and implementation, the resources needed and for what purposes, and how this project relates to any or all of the following: social justice in action, community-building, collective action, creative alternatives to the mainstream, bridging theory and practice, accessible engagement with community and social justice initiatives.

Because the Social Action Fund is a limited amount and cannot fund all student projects, it is important to craft a compelling proposal that brings the project to life and makes the case for why funding is instrumental in taking your project to the next level of implementation.

Please include the following:

Contact information

- ⇒ At the top of your application, please list: your name, box #, email, phone, project title, amount of funds requested, and dates of your project activity

Summary Project Plan

- ⇒ Overview/general description of project (*What are your goals and objectives? What have you accomplished on this project so far? What inspired this project?*)
- ⇒ Anticipated social impact, educational, artistic or scientific benefit (*Please explain how social value creation is a primary goal or outcome of the project, and how it is creative or innovative*)
- ⇒ Sustainability (*What is the short-term and long-term impact of the project? How will the impact be sustained, or continue to be felt?*)
- ⇒ Who is involved in your project (*Just you, other students, faculty members, community organizations or partners, etc. Do you already have a relationship/support from others who will be involved?*)
- ⇒ Relevant Experience (*If any – do you have any previous experience that might be helpful in completing your project?*)
- ⇒ Evaluation (*How will you evaluate the success of your project? How will your assessment strategy provide meaningful feedback, and how might you apply what you learn?*)
- ⇒ Risks (*What risks or possible challenges do you anticipate, and how might you address them?*)
- ⇒ Resources (*What resources – financial, human, social, environmental – are already available to you and what still needs to be acquired?*)
- ⇒ Budget and Funding Timeline (*What is the complete budget for your project, and what is the timeline for startup/completion?*)
- ⇒ Amount of Funds Requested (*How much funding are you requesting from the SAF?*)

Please also explain how an advisor or mentor could be most helpful to you.



Social Action Fund

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Guidelines For Submission

- Proposals **must be submitted as a PDF document** and **should not exceed four pages** in length.
- Any additional relevant materials should also be included in this email.

Faculty Recommendation

- Faculty recommendations may come from any faculty member you've worked with (*not required* to come from Committee Chair).
- Recommendations can be submitted directly to the CPSC Assistant Director or be included in your proposal email.
- If emailing directly, the recommendation should have the subject line: ***"Social Action Fund Recommendation for [Student Name]"***

Submit all application materials to:

Ivana Staiti

Assistant Director, Community Partnerships for Social Change

istaiti@hampshire.edu

Subject line: **"Social Action Fund Application"**

