



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CWP Impact Awards: Enabling Thriving Communities

RFP Issue Date: December 4, 2023

Deadline for Concepts: January 22, 2024

Purpose

Columbia World Projects (CWP) at [Columbia Global](#) is seeking proposals for the next round of CWP Impact Awards. CWP Impact Awards support faculty and researchers from across Columbia University who seek to address pressing societal challenges with innovative solutions, with the potential to scale and accelerate impact.

We seek proposals that involve bold ideas for tackling key challenges that stand in the way of thriving communities. Interventions representing unexplored avenues of thought and action that are currently underserved by existing funding sources will be prioritized.

Priorities for Consideration

CWP works to catalyze innovations and accelerate impact locally and around the world across four themes: Supporting Generations, Renewing Democracy, Building Inclusive Cities, and Enabling Thriving Communities. **This opportunity is specifically focused on the Enabling Thriving Communities theme.** Proposals are sought that aim to support the well-being and resilience of communities by furthering practices and policies that enable safe conditions for all community members. Example areas of interest related to the Enabling Thriving Communities theme include: peace and reconciliation, mental health, the arts, governance, and civic participation. We welcome other topic areas that fit within the priority theme.

Funding Levels

CWP Impact Awards are available at two funding levels:

- **Category A:** Two to three awards up to \$100,000 each will be made for activities to be conducted over a period of up to 24 months.
- **Category B:** Two to three awards between \$100,000 and \$250,000 each will be made for activities to be conducted over a period of two to three years.

Project Requirements

CWP will consider proposals that meet the following requirements:

- Inclusion of at least two faculty and/or researchers from distinct Columbia units (i.e., schools, departments, institutes, or centers) as part of the project leadership. At least one proposal lead must be eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator per [Columbia University guidelines](#).
- Evidence of partnership and equitable collaborations with partners outside Columbia University (e.g., other universities, government agencies, bilateral agencies, civil society organizations, private sector partners)
- Demonstration of the application of interdisciplinary problem-solving in project design, development, and implementation
- Translation of research, scholarship, and evidence into innovative, practical solutions, policy, or practice
- Demonstration of clear and measurable outputs and outcomes
- Demonstration of engagement with communities or recipients of services
- Inclusion of plans to engage Columbia University undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdocs in the project
- Commitment to advancing gender equity and racial justice

CWP will **not** consider proposals for:

- Projects that are exclusively focused on research or service delivery
- Projects solely focused on training activities, curriculum development, or conducting workshops or convenings
- Projects that do not align with the Enabling Thriving Communities theme
- Sustaining ongoing projects or activities

Other Considerations:

1. **International Proposals:** To enhance the effectiveness and scope of international projects, CWP strongly encourages and will give preference to proposals that actively engage with and utilize the platforms of the Columbia [Global Centers](#) or [ICAP offices](#). Collaborating with these entities can be invaluable, as they offer operational and administrative platforms for conducting global research and social impact programmatic activities. Proposals that demonstrate a clear plan for utilizing Columbia Global Centers and/or ICAP offices operationally and/or programmatically will be viewed favorably, particularly those that show how these collaborations will enhance the project's implementation and impact.

Eligible **Global Centers** are located in: [Amman, Jordan](#); [Athens, Greece](#); [Beijing, China](#); [Istanbul, Turkey](#); [Mumbai, India](#); [Nairobi, Kenya](#); [Paris, France](#); [Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#); [Santiago, Chile](#); and [Tunis, Tunisia](#)

Eligible **ICAP offices** are located in: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Ukraine, and Zambia.

2. **Local Community:** CWP strongly encourages proposals that lead to partnerships and impactful projects in the Harlem, Morningside Heights, and Washington Heights communities, as well as other communities in the United States.

CWP Impact Awards Timeline

January 11, 2024 (9 - 10 a.m. EST)	Virtual Q&A session (register here)
January 22, 2024	Concepts due (via Submittable platform)
February 15, 2024	Invitation for full proposals released
March 25, 2024	Full Proposals due (invite-only)
Late April 2024	Notices of Award released

As described in the table above, we request that interested applicants submit a project concept by **January 22, 2024 (11:59 p.m. EST)**. Once submitted, concepts will be reviewed and select applicants will be invited—by **February 15, 2024**—to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due on **March 25, 2024 (11:59 p.m. EST)**, with projects expected to launch in **June 2024**.

Virtual Q&A Session and FAQ:

We strongly encourage individuals considering this opportunity to attend an informational Q&A session on **January 11, 2024 from 9 - 10 a.m. EST**. The virtual Q&A will address questions about the application process and required documentation. Interested applicants are invited to register [here](#). Participation in the Q&A session is not a requirement for submission of a concept.

Interested applicants are also invited to submit questions to cwp-impactawards@columbia.edu during the inquiry period from December 4, 2023, to January 5, 2024. Please note that personalized email responses will not be provided. Instead, responses to frequently asked questions will be published [here](#) on January 11, 2024.

Resources for Applicants

- This season, Columbia Global is offering five unique opportunities for faculty to secure support and funding for scholarly research and projects that address complex global challenges. **Find out if this is the right one for you** by referring to the summaries provided [here](#).
- Interested applicants are encouraged to review the summary of [2023 Impact Award Recipients](#).

Concept Submission Instructions

Concepts must be submitted via the Submittable platform, which can be accessed [here](#). As reference to applicants, a PDF outlining all questions that are included in the concept form is available [here](#).

We are dedicated to ensuring that our application process is as accessible and user-friendly as possible. We understand that a straightforward and inclusive submission process is crucial to encouraging a diverse range of applicants. Our chosen platform, Submittable, is designed to be intuitive and easy to navigate, even for those who may not be tech-savvy. The platform is compatible with various devices, including smartphones and tablets, to accommodate applicants who may not have regular access to a desktop computer. Please note that Submittable is equipped with accessibility features to assist users with disabilities, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to submit an application. These features include screen reader compatibility, keyboard navigation, and adjustable text for those with visual impairments.

Technical Support and How to Receive Application-related Reminders

For applicants who encounter technical difficulties or have questions about the submission process, CWP provides a dedicated support team at cwp-impactawards@columbia.edu.

To keep applicants informed and on track, we will send out regular reminders about upcoming deadlines and any updates to the application process. To receive these updates, please initiate your concept form via [Submittable](#).

Evaluation Criteria

Our evaluation criteria are designed to identify applications that not only align with our mission of enabling thriving communities but also demonstrate innovation, feasibility, and potential for significant impact.

The evaluation of each application will be conducted holistically, taking into consideration a range of factors that contribute to the overall effectiveness and potential success of the project. Our review committee, composed of experts from various fields, will assess each application based on predefined criteria, ensuring consistency and fairness in the evaluation process.

Key criteria include:

1. Alignment with Theme

- How well does the proposal align with the "Enabling Thriving Communities" theme?

2. Feasibility and Project Design

- Feasibility and practicality of the proposed project design and timeline
- Adequacy of resources and methodology to achieve project goals

3. Innovation and Originality

- Degree of innovation and originality in the approach or solution
- Exploration of uncharted avenues and areas underserved by existing funding

4. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- The extent and quality of interdisciplinary collaboration
- Inclusion of diverse perspectives and expertise from different Columbia units

5. Impact and Scalability

- Potential for sustainable and scalable impact
- Ability to produce tangible, measurable outcomes and benefits to communities

6. Community Engagement and Inclusivity

- Depth of community engagement and beneficiary involvement in the project
- Commitment to advancing gender equity and racial justice

7. Budget Justification and Efficiency

- Appropriateness and efficiency of the proposed budget
- Justification of expenses and cost-effectiveness

8. Student Involvement

- Plans for engaging Columbia University students in meaningful roles associated with the proposed project

Feedback for Unsuccessful Applicants

We recognize the effort and dedication involved in preparing applications for the Impact Awards. While we value each submission, it is not feasible for us to provide individualized feedback to unsuccessful applicants.