



Request for Proposals

Dialogues Across Difference in Action: Campus Microgrants for Religious Literacy and Interfaith Engagement

Overview:

The Dialogues Across Difference in Action initiative invites proposals from student-faculty teams across the 22-campus California State University (CSU) system to develop creative, high-impact projects that advance interfaith understanding, religious literacy, and bridgebuilding across worldview differences.

This microgrant program is part of a two-year, systemwide effort supported by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to cultivate pluralism and interfaith dialogue through experiential learning, dialogue, and collaboration. Funded projects will contribute directly to the initiative's theory of change, grounded in the understanding that structured opportunities for interfaith engagement—combined with intentional skill-building and resource dissemination—will transform campus climates, strengthen pluralistic leadership, and cultivate lasting networks of understanding.

Microgrants intend to prepare students and faculty to implement projects and activities tailored to their campus contexts while participating in shared training and a CSU-wide community of practice.

Purpose:

The aims of the initiative are to:

- Promote religious literacy and interfaith engagement on CSU campuses.
- Facilitate collaboration across lines of faith, worldview, and belief.
- Strengthen campus and community cohesion through interfaith dialogue and shared action.

Grant Amounts:

- Awards up to \$5,000 per project.
- Approximately ten projects will be funded each year.
- Funds may be used for project expenses such as supplies, speaker honoraria, event promotion, and catering.
- Funds will be awarded via a grant subaward in accordance with CSU campus procedures.

Eligibility:

- Each applicant team must include at least two current students and one faculty or staff advisor from a CSU campus.
- Projects must be hosted by and take place on a CSU campus.
- Cross-campus and community collaborations are encouraged and will receive priority consideration.

Program Outcomes:

Each proposal must articulate how its planned activities and outputs (events, collaborations, or deliverables) advance the outcomes of the initiative by contributing to one or more of the following:

Outcomes:

Increased interfaith cooperation that accurately reflects student, faculty, and/or community experiences

Expanded interfaith skill development to support productive discussions of worldview differences

Example Activities:

Storytelling circles, shared-values panels, faith and worldview fairs, interfaith service projects, art exhibitions, documentary film screenings

Deep listening and bridgebuilding training, interfaith leadership certification, religious literacy student presentations

Requirements and Expectations:

All selected teams will:

- Complete online certification in interfaith leadership via Interfaith America/ReligionandPublicLife.org.
- Attend a Virtual Symposium on Religious Literacy and Interfaith Engagement in the fall of the grant year.
- Implement their campus project between February and May of the award year.
- Attend a check-in meeting with the initiative's project director in early spring.
- Submit a final reflection and assessment report, including participant attendance data, event outcomes, and lessons learned.
- Contribute materials (e.g., event templates/activity descriptions, photos, or reflection summaries) to the project's Interfaith Resource Repository.

Funding Guidelines:

Grant funds may be used for the following purposes:

- Campus or community events, service projects, exhibits, permanent public art installations, or interfaith training programs.
- Stipends or honoraria for speakers, facilitators, or community collaborators.
- Supplies, materials, and accommodations directly tied to project goals.

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Alcohol or political campaign activities.
- Tuition, scholarships, or endowment contributions.
- Lobbying or capital expenditures.
- General operational or indirect costs.

Deliverables:

Each funded project will produce:

- Completion certificates of interfaith leadership training.
- Documentation of activities (sign in sheets, photos, media mentions, and/or promotional materials).
- Post-project evaluation survey responses and summary reflection describing outcomes and potential steps for sustainability.

Proposal Review and Selection:

Applications will be evaluated by a CSU-wide faculty advisory board and selection committee, based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with initiative outcomes.
- Engagement of diverse perspectives and collaborations across lines of faith and worldview.
- Feasibility and clarity of proposed activities.
- Innovation and creativity.
- Anticipated long-term/sustained campus and/or community impact.

Proposals that demonstrate clear collaborations, including the involvement of diverse, established campus organizations will receive priority. Additionally, this initiative is very interested in supporting projects that will be sustained beyond the grant cycle and facilitating long-term campus community impact.

Timeline:

September 2026	Request for proposals is launched
September 25, 2026 (10-11 AM PST)	Click here to access Information Zoom Webinar
October 15, 2026	Application deadline
November 2026	Microgrant recipients announced

December 2026	Virtual Symposium on Religious Literacy and Interfaith
January 2027	Virtual check-in meeting
February–May 2027	Grantee projects implemented/post-activity survey and deliverables due by May 30.

Application Instructions:

Applications must include:

- Completed online application through Infoready Portal (access using link below).
- Team information: Names, roles, and contact information for students and faculty/staff advisor.
- Institutional Grant Office Contact Information: Name, email, and phone number of campus grants/auxiliary office.
- Project Summary/Description (500 words): Overview of activities, goals, relevance, and impact.
- Connection to outcomes (300 words): Explain how your project supports one or more of the initiative's stated outcomes.
- Timeline (300 words): Overview of timing of planned events/activities.
- Budget Narrative (up to \$5000): Describe how the funds will be used. A detailed budget is not required but applicants should provide a description of how resources will be utilized according to important line-item categories (e.g. honorarium, supplies, catering, etc.)
- Letter of Institutional Support for the project from a dean or provost.

[Learn more about the Dialogues Across Difference in Action Campus Microgrant Program or Apply](#)

For questions about proposal submission, contact:

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