The Office for Public Engagement is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support the Public Engagement Issue Area Networks (IAN) Initiative. The goal of this campus-wide small grant initiative is to improve cross-unit alignment of existing public engagement work by strengthening the internal coordination of the Twin Cities campus’s community engagement efforts.

A grant of up to $10,000 will be awarded to each of eight identified societal issue area networks to establish, implement, and evaluate strategic initiatives that promote cross-unit collaboration among individuals, groups and units at the Twin Cities campus who are conducting community-engaged work focused on the same or similar societal issue.

**Purpose**
Across the Twin Cities campus, there is a large number of community-engaged efforts that address similar societal issues, but are not linked or networked. The IAN initiative is intended to link and encourage synergy among related community-engaged projects, partnerships, and activities in ways that can leverage greater collective action and deeper overall impact.

**Background**
During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Office for Public Engagement hosted a series of meetings with representatives from more than 80 University-based centers, departments, and institutes to catalogue the various societal issues on which their unit’s community-engaged work is focused.

The catalogue revealed that the existing community-engaged projects within the participating units fall within eight broad-based societal issues:

- Arts
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Economic Development and Poverty
- Environment and Sustainability
- Food
- Health
- Transportation
- Youth and Education

The goal of the IAN initiative is to bring together the units and departments that are currently addressing each issue to build cross-unit synergies in ways that can leverage extramural and other resources, as well as increase the impact on the community.

**Network Criteria and Expectations**
In building an Issue Area Network, the following criteria should be considered:

- Each network should consist of at least three “members” (centers, departments, individuals, focused initiatives, programs) that are conducting engaged work on the societal issue. Because a primary goal of IAN is to build on existing work, the network’s members should already be immersed in community-engaged work on the societal issue.
A network’s membership roster may include individuals, groups, or units as “members.” Each network must include at least three members whose engaged work on the societal issue is conducted independently from other members. Each network should have at least one member that serves as an “anchor” or “anchor unit.” Typically, the anchor(s) will be individuals or units that have substantial community-engaged work underway on the societal issue. Some networks may have multiple anchors or anchor units. Each network should develop a catalogue of existing engagement activities (programs, projects, and initiatives) for each member’s work. Each network should be ready to identify three to five overarching goals designed to “move the dial” on a particular issue area through a joint collaborative effort among the members. The goals should enhance the work of the existing members and should ensure that every member has a role in advancing and achieving the goals (see details in the Proposal Narrative section of the proposal application).

Assessment and Reporting
Each network is expected to meet at least four times during the academic year. These meetings are organized and scheduled by each network.

In addition, one to three representatives from each network will be asked to attend two ninety-minute IAN debriefing meetings in November, 2014 and February, 2015 to provide an update on the implementation of the action plan.

In May 2015 and December 2015, OPE will convene members of each network for an IAN retreat during which networks will present a progress report.

Expectation and Deliverables
It is expected that each network and its members will:

- Actively participate in all aspects of the network convening;
- Develop, implement, and refine an IAN action plan that will advance internal alignment of community-engaged efforts that are focused on the societal issue;
- Share lessons learned and successes at various public engagement events; and
- Submit a brief final report (three to five pages) at the end of the program that articulates the network’s progress and experience.

Application Process
Complete and email (as PDF document) the attached application by 5 p.m. Friday, September 5, 2014 to avp-ope@umn.edu. Only those applications received by 5 p.m. Friday, September 5, 2014 will be considered for funding. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant application by Monday, September 15, 2014.

Questions
Please direct questions to Amber Cameron (acameron@umn.edu), Associate Director for Public Engagement Initiatives, Office for Public Engagement.
APPLICATION COVER PAGE
Public Engagement Issue Area Network Initiative Grant Program
Submission Deadline: September 5, 2014

Issue Area Network: ____________________________

PRINCIPAL CONTACT: ______________________ PHONE: ______________________

EMAIL: ______________________________________

Proposal Narrative
In a maximum of seven pages (single-spaced)\(^1\), please address the items in each of the four parts of the proposal narrative (bulleted points, lists, and tables are acceptable):

PART I. MEMBERSHIP
A. **Network Membership:** Which staff, faculty, units, institutes, departments, etc. comprise the core membership of the Issue Area Network? Provide a list of the network members.

B. **Network Anchor:** Which unit or units within the membership will serve as the anchor unit(s)?

  *Anchor unit(s) are individuals, groups, units, or centers that have a longstanding, vested interest in the societal issue and can provide the network with access to meeting spaces, available resources, engagement opportunities, community partners, etc.*

C. **Network Leadership:** Which member(s) of the network will serve as network leaders and take on the responsibility of facilitating the work of the network?

D. **Network Member Responsibilities:** What is the expected contribution each member will make to advancing the network’s goals? What assets does each member bring to the network? What is the scope and extent of responsibilities for each member of the network?

PART II. CURRENT LANDSCAPE
E. **Network Landscape:** What is the current scale and scope of the engagement work on the issue area that is currently underway among members of the network? What community-engaged projects are already underway or are in development among the members of the network? What additional information might be needed to develop a more complete catalogue of the existing engagement work on the issue area?

F. **Network Strengths:** Given the current work of the members, what are the network’s collective areas of strength to address the societal issue in question?

G. **Network Gaps:** What are some of the gaps in the issue area that the current engagement work is not addressing? For example, is there a topic within the issue area that is important to the community, but is not currently being addressed by any of the members? Might other members

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\(^1\) The maximum 7-page limit is meant to serve as a guide for writing the proposal narrative. Please note that this is a suggested length; there is no firm page limit for the proposal narrative. Given that the sizes and scopes of work for the networks will vary, each network is encouraged to submit a narrative that allows for satisfactory and sufficient explication of each proposal narrative item.
need to be sought out to secure fuller network representation? If so, what are plans for accomplishing this?

PART III: GOALS AND OUTCOMES

H. Issue Area Goals: What are three to five overarching goals regarding the societal issue area that the network members’ collective work hopes to accomplish? What topics within the societal issue will the network advance? What will the network accomplish that cannot be accomplished alone by individual members?

I. Issue Area Outcomes: In regards to the societal issue, what specifically will be accomplished by the network’s efforts? Identify a set of outcomes that the Network will achieve during the 2014-2015 year regarding specific impacts on the societal issue. What are some longer term impacts that the collective work of the network hopes to achieve for the societal issue?

J. Network Goals and Strength: What are some key issues (structures, policies, approaches, etc.) that need to be addressed to secure a strong, sustained network for the issue area? What are some key network goals that will be pursued to ensure effective, collective action to address the issue area? (For example, do the members of the network need to examine definitions, different perspectives, etc.)

PART IV. ACTION STEPS

K. Network Next Steps: Identify five to seven concrete steps the network will undertake to build a strong network that can accomplish the three to five goals identified in item H. For each step, identify a marker of success.

L. Network Convening: Describe the network’s plan to connect throughout the year to accomplish its goals and next steps.

Budget
In a maximum of two pages (not counting the above pages), please address the following items:

A. State the dollar amount requested to be applied to achieve the goals outlined in the project narrative. The total requested dollar amount should not exceed $10,000. NOTE: The fund award will be in the form of a budget allocation against which each network can charge its expenses to conduct its work. The funds will remain at the Office for Public Engagement, which will pay for the network’s expenses as budgeted.

B. Specify how the funds will be used and for what purposes. The use of funds should align with the goals, outcomes and action steps identified in the proposal narrative.

C. If appropriate, describe other sources of support that will support the building of the network and the achievement of its goals.

Submission
Email your application (as a PDF document) by 5 p.m., Friday, September 5, 2014 to Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, at avp-ope@umn.edu.