



The Resnick Family Social Impact Fund

Request for Proposals

ISEN invites applications from student teams to develop projects that foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and cutting-edge research for crucial needs across energy, sustainability and global public health. The support is intended to bridge resource gaps between research and solution ideation, proof-of-concept work and testing methods for implementation-at-scale.

Teams will be eligible to apply for three types of funding:

- Phase I project/prototype assistance – Teams may receive up to \$5,000, for up to twelve (12) months
- Phase II scale-up assistance – Teams may receive up to \$25,000, for up to eighteen (18) months
- Travel assistance related to the Project development– domestic and international, as necessary

1. What is ISEN looking for in a project proposal?

Proposed projects should address significant local and/or global challenges in sustainability and energy, and associated sustainable development or public health concerns. Preference will be given to teams that are:

- Multidisciplinary, with particular emphasis on teams that include both undergraduate and graduate students;
- Project-based, with timelines and projected impact appropriate to the scope, location and socio-economic factors relevant to the project implementation;
- Effective in leveraging local partner networks to amplify the impact of project funding, particularly with respect to international projects.

2. What is the application deadline?

Applications will be accepted three times during the academic year, with deadlines in November, March, and May. Upcoming deadlines are: March 20, May 15, and November 27.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

Multidisciplinary undergraduate or graduate teams with at least **one** team member who is a current student throughout the duration of the project are eligible to apply.

Eligible teams must have an appointed faculty advisor.

4. How should I submit my proposal and how do I know it's been submitted?

You should email your proposal and any relevant supplemental materials to ISEN's Business Coordinator, Sean Irwin, at sean.irwin@northwestern.edu.

You will receive confirmation that your application is being processed within one week of submission.

5. What are acceptable uses of awarded funds?

Acceptable expenditures of Phase I and Phase II funding may include, but are not limited to, materials, implementation costs, design, and production. Salary to members of the teams is generally excluded as an allowable cost, although partial buyout of graduate and faculty time, in compliance with Northwestern accounting and effort reporting guidelines, may be considered by ISEN on a case-by-case basis.

6. How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee that is comprised of ISEN-affiliated faculty, staff, and partners, with consultation and input from representatives of donors.

7. When will applicants be notified?

The applicants will be notified 2-3 weeks after submission deadline.

8. How will funding be administered?

Once you have been notified that you will receive an award, please make an appointment with ISEN's Post-award Research Administrator, Karolyn Godfrey.

9. What are the deliverables required from awardees?

Before the award starts:

- a. Return the award letter signed, agreeing to the terms and conditions in the

- award letter, including the timely submission of deliverables.
- b. Provide a summary slide of the project for use on ISEN's website and other media at the start of the project.
 - c. Outline project timeline, impact goals, and associated progress metrics.

No later than one week before the end of funding:

- a. Provide a narrative report in .PDF format.
- b. Provide revised summary slide.
- c. Provide details (funder, title, amount funded, project period) for external proposals resulting from the ISEN-funded project.

Occasionally, and as requested by ISEN, you may be asked to provide various information on the project, or its results, for outreach purposes.

10. Intellectual Property

Existing Northwestern intellectual property policies apply.

11. What if I need more information?

Please contact: ISEN's Business Coordinator, Sean Irwin, at sean.irwin@northwestern.edu.