



Campus Compact Montana

MTCC Notice of Funds Available (NOFA)

\$26,000 Available for *Pathways of Community Change* Research Project

Announcement:

[Montana Campus Compact](#) (MTCC) announces funding up to \$26,000 for the 2018-2019 *Pathways of Community Change* research project. The broad focus of the research is to identify current strategies and approaches to build civil discourse, teach the spectrum of community/social change work, and better connect aspects of national service (AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA) experiences as building blocks for future community change work. Outcomes of the research will include development and implementation of research-based training curriculum/modules to be offered for AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA members in Montana.

This research and related training are needed to address a growing challenge within national service programs around retention and member satisfaction. One identified factor impeding retention and satisfaction is the difficulty members sometimes have connecting their motivations for service and community change with the skill development national service experience provides. Historically, program management practices prove otherwise; in fact, national service can be an excellent way to build skill sets that better prepare individuals for professional careers in pursuit of community change and social impact.

The research project funding will be awarded to a faculty member at a Montana Campus Compact member institution of higher education to produce the following deliverables:

- Research current methods that 1) build effective civil discourse among diverse groups and audiences; 2) understand aspects of young adult-development as it relates to civic engagement and social change; and 3) examine relevant models of career development on a spectrum of community/social change work.
- Build research-based curriculum and training modules to be implemented at member training sessions.
- Offer two to three training sessions spring (March 7-8, 2018 in Helena) and summer 2019 for national service members to assist members building professional pathways for community change work that are rooted in and expand on their national service experience.

Project Background:

AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA members are drawn to community service for a variety of reasons, increasingly including a desire to engage in community change work and make a positive difference in society. Members are often exposed to structural inequality and racism in communities they serve. These experiences heighten members' interest in working to change systems and magnify their pursuit of equity. Meanwhile, national service and its federal source of

most funds translate to a somewhat rule-bound set of programs. National service focuses on public problem solving, and has historically enjoyed bipartisan support. Its participants are trained to steer clear of political causes while on the AmeriCorps clock, and not engage in partisan activities nor endorse specific causes, regardless of their connection to the systemic issues they are working on. Service members, typically thoughtful and engaged citizens, often experience dissonance over working to end poverty, or enact meaningful change, but having to stop short of policy change, or political engagement while in service. This project will explore and build tools to better support members, and illuminate actual and perceived barriers to change making and connect skills learned through AmeriCorps to future change.

Statewide, national service program directors see the need to include specific workshops in member orientation and in-service training that create more explicit connections between personal/innate desire for societal change, the role of national service members, and their career trajectories.

Available Funding:

MTCC, in partnership with the [Governor's Office of Community Service](#), will provide up to \$26,000 to fund this research project and the associated training sessions. Funds will be sub-granted by MTCC at the University of Montana to the winning faculty member's campus via their grants/research office. Funds are available in the following categories:

- \$20,000 for faculty stipend/buy-out/research team members
- \$6,000 for travel and supplies

Budgets should not exceed \$26,000. Funding period is November 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

Technical Assistance Call:

MTCC will host a technical assistance video/conference call using Zoom to answer questions and provide additional information for interested applicants. The Zoom call will be on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 3:00 PM. Use this [Zoom Link](#)

Application and Deadline:

The application is found [here](#). Deadline for applications is Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 11:00 PM. Completed applications should be emailed to Andrea Vernon, vernon@mtcompact.org

Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) is a statewide CEO-led coalition of college and university presidents, chancellors, and deans who have made a formal commitment to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. These individuals serve as board of directors for the organization, which employs an Executive Director and network office staff, based in Missoula. MTCC is part of a nationwide network that includes a national headquarters in Boston, 35 state offices, and over 1000 Campus Compact member institutions.

Our Mission

MTCC advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility.

Our Vision

Communities in Montana and the surrounding region will experience significant, community-initiated, positive impact through the service of college students.

