Public Service Endowment Grant FAQs

If your question is not answered here, please contact PSEG program administrator Mary K. Green at mkgreen@umass.edu or 413-545-8641.

How long is the award period for a PSEG grant?

PSEG grants are for one year. Projects should be completed and final reports filed by July 31st of the year following the award.

Could I apply as a PI on one project and as a Co-PI on a second project?

I understand that multiple proposals would not be awarded, but am wondering if two proposals might be considered?

The eligibility guideline, “Faculty can participate in only one PSEG proposal in a given year,” refers to both PI and Co-PI roles. An individual can be an applicant in either capacity on only one proposal each year.

Can community partner organizations be subcontractors in the budget?

Yes; the PSEG budget can definitely include money for subcontracts to a community partner organizations. You may put a subcontract in the budget as a line item and explain it in the budget justification.

What should be included in the References List?

The References List, also known as a Works Cited page, lists all works cited in the text of the proposal. You may use any established style for citations and the corresponding References List. The Purdue Owl https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html provides resources for the various commonly used citation styles.

What is considered scholarship? Is it the same as research?

The term scholarship includes research and in the context of the PSEG refers to community engaged scholarship. Types of scholarship vary across disciplines and fields of practice, but in general, scholarship requires review by peers and dissemination to the field (and to stakeholders in the case of community engaged scholarship). This can be achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

Do staff applicants need to have a record of scholarship?

Yes; proposals from staff and faculty alike must address the purposes of the PSEG program, which include scholarship related to the proposed partnership project. Staff applying as PIs should be actively engaged in scholarly work and should demonstrate a record of scholarship to support the argument that they have the capacity to successfully complete the scholarly activities. (See Review Criterion d.) Their record of scholarship should be documented it in their CV and in the letter of support from their supervisor or department head.

I am a staff member doing community engaged work that is not scholarly. Can I still apply for a PSEG grant?

If staff are doing community engaged work that is not scholarly, they can fulfill the scholarship requirement by teaming up as Co-PI with another faculty or staff member who is an active scholar.

How is “community” defined for the purposes of the PSEG program?

Community means the geographical area around UMass Amherst. Projects are usually in local area but can be in Western Massachusetts or even as far away as Boston, depending on the project, but must be in the state of Massachusetts.