

Comprehensive Economic Recovery Initiative (CERI)

<https://reicenter.org/projects/ceri>

Call for Technical Assistance Projects

Pre-Application

Revised 11-23-21

Background

With support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), and to advance Michigan's long-term economic recovery from COVID-19, the Michigan State University Comprehensive Economic Recovery Initiative (CERI), funded through the CARES Act, will provide the EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI)¹ supplemental funding to develop education, training, and other technical assistance and research in partnership with hard hit communities in Michigan through June 2022. During this unprecedented public health and social justice crisis, we are committed to creating, applying, and disseminating valued knowledge through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning. To accomplish this mission, we are devising innovative ways to create sustainable prosperity and an equitable economy in Michigan. We will continue to seek experts through our networks to identify, create and implement innovative and effective strategies to break down barriers of inequity. We will support **projects that set a course to intentionally build a more sustainable, inclusive and just state, to end racism and the inequities in Michigan.**

Technical Assistance applicants must collaborate with the community and/or organization they seek to work with in order to achieve the project goals. Applicants are expected to work with a community and/or an organization for the entire contract. CERI intends to fund 8 to 16 projects per year for a two-year period.

This is a *Pre-Application*, and must be submitted prior to a *Full Application*. If your *Pre-Application* is selected you will be notified and invited to submit a *Full Application* within 14 days.

Focus Areas

CERI seeks projects that will address one or more focus areas:

- **Resiliency Planning** – Comprehensive planning that will speed recovery after experiencing natural or manmade shocks such as the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- **Financial Resiliency** – Collaboration with community capital experts, state planning agencies, local governments, community anchor institutions, Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), private financial institutions, and others to increase and expand the capacity of community financial

¹ Since 2011, the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) has supported over 100 innovative economic development projects in Michigan, spurring high-growth entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic innovation. REI partners have achieved remarkable success with over \$60 million in public and private investments generated by 72 Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects; 52 Co-Learning Plans; and 9 Co-Implementation projects. Partners of REI leverage higher education, businesses, local governments, EDDs, non-profits, economic developers, and others who create, identify, and develop new economic development strategies and practices, and perform technical assistance for communities in Michigan. REI is committed to a process of engagement to create the best and brightest community and economic developers in the world.

institutions and individuals to invest in local businesses. Support strategic initiatives to build Michigan's capacity to make community capital investing more available and normalized in mitigating the vicissitudes of other less accessible and viable capital markets for small businesses and main street.

• **Circular Economies-**

Accelerate the growth of circular economy businesses. Identify economic recovery efforts and other strategic resources to assist individuals, businesses, and communities to navigate coronavirus-related resources, or provide feasibility studies, market research, economic impact surveys, and other analysis that will support the development of sustainable and circular economy businesses and services that maximize the efficient use of local/regional supply chains.

• **21st Century Communications Infrastructure** – Develop and support activities that increase access to broadband in rural and low-income urban communities to build the capacity of communities to use online platforms for civic engagement, commerce, healthcare and education.

Technical Assistance

Please identify the type of technical assistance that you propose to provide to a community, region, organization or for a particular set of stakeholders.

- Student-Led, Faculty-Guided Project
- Live Webinar Series
- Recorded Training videos
- Grant Proposal Development
- Other

Applicants must provide evidence of collaboration with a community and/or organization in order to achieve the overall project goals. Applicants are expected to work with a community and/or an organization for the entirety of the project and contract. Applicants must provide a detailed narrative, **not to exceed one page**, that describes the proposed scope of work. It should clearly identify sections containing the following:

1. Cover page, including name, email address, phone number, and affiliation, and the project title.
2. A brief summary of the problem and how the proposed project will address the economic development challenge, as it relates to the global pandemic.
3. The purpose in taking on this project, noting any special contributions it may make toward economic development efforts in Michigan.
4. A list of who you plan to work with to implement this project. Have you already made contact with the individuals/organizations?
5. A basic timeline of the proposed project, including tasks for individuals on the team.

6. Your skills, qualifications, and/or connections unique to guide this community or organization in this project.
7. A description of how your project might generate living-wage jobs, public/private investments, and transform a community to be **more inclusive and equitable**.
8. Describe any anticipated impacts.

Funding

Up to \$5,000 per project for a two- year period. No expenditures can be made after May 1, 2022.

Submission

All Pre-Applications will be taken on a rolling basis, as resources permit, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

All applications must be submitted as file attachments and sent to hooperna@msu.edu (you must enter the project title, the date, and your last name in the subject as: "project title, date, last name").

Questions

Please contact Mr. Nat Hooper at hooperna@msu.edu or 517-353-9555