

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) 2023 Call for Projects Now Open

REI was created in 2011 by the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA). By employing a nationally unique process engaging thinkers and doers across the state, REI identifies innovative tools, models, policies, and programs that can support economic growth in our most distressed communities. Current areas of engagement seek innovative community and economic development actions in resilience planning, financial resilience, 21st-century communication infrastructure, and circular economies. REI has a strong track record of partnerships and engaging with Economic Development Districts, along with public and private partners, serving both urban and rural communities statewide.



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REI funds several types of projects: Co-Learning Plans Projects, researched and written by community and economic development leaders and professionals; Co-Implementation Plans, led by Innovation Fellows; and Student-Led, Faculty-Guided Technical Assistance projects, researched and written by student teams at Michigan universities and colleges.

REI is "calling" for authors and experts to research and develop Co-Learning Plans on economic development tools, models, policies, programs, and practices. The findings and recommendations in these Co-Learning Plans, funded through this request, will serve as a source for current and practical information for local and state economic development practitioners and policymakers as they consider important decisions that affect development efforts for Michigan communities and regions.

The REI University Center has identified the following topical areas for possible Co-Learning Plans of 2023. These include: 1) Clean Energy Economies of Michigan, 2) Defining Equitable Economic Development in Your Region or the State, 3) Circular Economies of Michigan, 4) Blight and Deconstruction within Michigan, 5) Michigan Planning Organizations Leveraging the Planning Process Together for Greater Impacts, and 6) Other. These topical areas within one of the above mentioned four categories were weighed by the REI Consultative Panel with consideration to likelihood of creating or retaining jobs and/or businesses in economically distressed regions of Michigan.

To learn more about all opportunities or to apply for a Co-Learning Plan, please visit:

<https://reicenter.org/projects/22-23-project-overviews>

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