



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Student-Led Projects (Under \$10K)

Funding Criteria

A. General Rules

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

Your funding application should include this application and any letters of support.

Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

General & Contact Information

Project Name: MFSTSA Talk Series: Reimagining Our Food Systems

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$1779

Project Topic Areas: Land & Water Education Energy
 Transportation Food & Waste

Applicant Name: Lucy Nifong

Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems Student Association (MFSTSA)

Email Address: lnifong2@illinois.edu

Check one:

- This project is solely my own **OR**
 This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems Student Association (MFSTSA)

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Sarah Tate	Urban Studies and Planning	State3@illinois.edu
Ellie Sander	Urban Studies and Planning	Elliexs2@illinois.edu
Noah Bell	MFST	Noahb5@illinois.edu

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Megan Dailey

Advisor’s Email Address: mdailey5@illinois.edu

Financial Contact (Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)

Contact Name: Megan Dailey

Unit/Department: Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems

Email Address: mdailey5@illinois.edu

Project Information

Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.

Please provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:

We want to know: What is your project? What does it concretely produce, accomplish, or solve? Why is this project needed on campus?

MFSTSA is hosting four guest speakers to talk with students in our virtual "MFSTSA Talk Series: Reimagining Our Food Systems". This talk series will feature entrepreneurs and educators of color who are working to transform our current food system, particularly by examining race and food justice on a deeper level. Because our goal is to promote food systems education across all interests and areas of study, we are asking for funding to provide an honorarium to one of our guest speakers who is coming from a well known non-profit organization, Urban Growers Collective, in Chicago. Additionally, we would like funding to print posters as promotional materials to attract as many interested students on campus as possible. Because food justice has been relatively less explored as a concept within the food-environment nexus on the UIUC campus, we are hoping this talk series will highlight food justice as a legitimate concern in the field of food sustainability. Finally, we would like to be able to hire ASL interpreter so that our virtual talk-series is accessible to as many people as possible. Aligning with our goals of social justice in food systems education, we believe that having a sign language interpreter is essential to social sustainability.

Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?

If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application. SSC cannot fund projects without prior location approval.

This project will be hosted virtually over Zoom during four separate Thursday evenings during the semester. Participants will register on our EventBrite page for the event.

Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.

Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.

Guest speakers at this talk series include: Erika Allen, Dr. Bobby Smith II, Dr. Lila Adib Sharif, and Dr. Janett Barragan Miranda. This project is affiliated with the Food Recovery Network UIUC Chapter, which is composed of two RSOs: the Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems Student Association (MFSTSA) and Project4Less. The UIUC Chapter of FRN is part of the larger FRN national network. FRN is not funding this project, but they plan to promote each speaker of our talk series on their social media, using promotional materials we will design. The Department of Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems in the College of ACES is affiliated with this project.

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

Many people are unaware of the concept of food systems and the complex interactions that occur between producers, communities, and governments that surround food. With the MFSTSA talk series, students will learn about the food system and understand how it impacts communities of color. UIUC students will have the opportunity to hear about the educational and career paths of food systems experts and learn more about their personal experiences. The talk series will expose students to different careers within the food system and highlight how to pursue those goals.

What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?

We hope students from all colleges and majors across UIUC attend this event to become more aware of the invisible yet vast food system that shapes what they eat. We also want students to understand the power they have to influence the food system by becoming involved in local food systems, growing their own food, and developing sustainable diets. Students will become more aware of racial disparities across the food system and hopefully be inspired to support these causes.

How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus?

The project will encourage students to think more in depth about the consequences of their food choices and the power they have as individual consumers. After attending the talk series, students will realize how much work goes into producing simple food items. We hope the events will motivate students to reduce their personal waste and make conscious decisions which purchasing food.

If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?

The talk series will reveal to students the ways in which minority communities are harmed and excluded from the food system. Students will learn how this exclusion has created cascading economic and social consequences that have shaped the world we live in today. UIUC students may come from food desert areas and have experienced food insecurity while at home; we believe it is important for all students to understand this struggle and the complex interactions behind it. This talk series will highlight how the inclusion of minority communities in the food system paves the way for entrepreneurship, social justice, decreased poverty, and improved health outcomes.

Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification

What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones.

Please be as detailed as possible.

The talk series dates are March 24th, April 14th, April 21st, and April 28th from 6pm-7:30pm over Zoom. We plan to print posters and hang them around campus in dorms and outdoors before Spring Break to promote the talk series.

List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested.

Please be as detailed as possible.

Printing large, medium, and small high-quality promotional posters from FedEx: \$109

American Sign-Language Interpreter: \$1170

Honorarium for speaker Erika Allen: \$500

If the project is implemented, will you require ongoing funding? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?

SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding

This project does not require additional funding. MFSTSA plans to host a themed Talk Series every Spring semester, and may require funding in coming years; however, if we do require funding in future years, we will submit a new application.

Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?

Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.

n/a

Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?

No.

How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?

The Talk Series will be promoted on MFSTSA's Instagram, website, and newsletter. Information about the four events will also be posted by the nationally-based Food Recovery Network social media. We will be reaching out to RSO's, cultural houses, and other university groups to spread the word about the Talk Series.