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# **Disaster Resilience Constellation: Round 3 Seed Grant Competition**

The UM Disaster Resilience Constellation (DRC) has funded eight projects in two previous seed grant competition rounds since 2018. For Round 3, the DRC invites any UM faculty member who is eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator[[1]](#footnote-1) to submit or lead a proposal under either of two tracks—***Standard Track*** and ***Covid-19 Track.*** Previous DRC participation is not required.

## About the Disaster Resilience Constellation

Reducing the impact of disasters on our communities and supporting infrastructure requires a multifaceted methodology: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The DRC combines insight and research from environmental and legal disciplines with social sciences, material sciences, information technology, and public health. Together, we will develop technologies and tools, as well as inform policies to mitigate disasters and increase the resilience and sustainability of communities.

Our goal is to generate transformative basic and applied research, computational and decision support tools, practices, laws, and policies that will help the society at local, state, and federal levels to achieve community and infrastructure resilience by addressing their vulnerabilities through a risk-based scientific approach encompassing all phases of disaster life cycle: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

## **COVID-19 Track**

### Background

Part of resilience is the ability to return to ‘normal’ conditions after a disruption caused by a catastrophic event, such as COVID-19. While UM researchers may not be experts in pandemic response, many have expertise in the impacts on other parts of the systems.

The response to COVID-19 is impacting everything from education to community functions and the extent of long-term effects is not yet understood.  The DRC is interested in proposals that will help elucidate the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19.

A few such potential impacts are listed here for illustrative purposes only—proposals need **not** be limited to exploring impacts in this list:

* Impacts of rapid move to distance-based teaching/learning approaches on instructors, students, parents, and learning outcomes
* Impacts of supply chain disruptions to businesses, consumers, communities, and economies
* Impacts of social distancing to businesses, workers, consumers, communities, and economies
* Impacts of pandemics to various infrastructures (e.g., water treatment centers)
* Impacts to media for informing the public

UM has researchers with the expertise to look at a situation from different perspectives, and an opportunity to collect ephemeral data to inform our collective understanding of these phenomena.

### Covid-19 Track Proposal Requirements

1. **Cover Page** containing names, primary appointment titles, departments, and e-mail addresses of the PI and any co-investigators (the Research Team)
2. **Project Description** (no more than 4 pages). Include:
	1. Any **Research Question(s)** to be answered or informed.
	2. **Description of Data** to be collected.
	3. **Data Collection Plan**, including any time constraints.
	4. **Planned Use of Data** in the future.
	5. List any **Time Constraints** (or other constraints) on collecting the data.
	6. **Potential for External Funding**. As specifically as you can, list and describe the external funding opportunity or opportunities this data will help you compete for. For funding opportunities that are anticipated but not yet announced, provide a justification for why such an opportunity is anticipated.
	7. **IRB Information**. If this research involves human subjects, specify whether an IRB protocol has already been submitted for review, or will be submitted immediately following submission of this proposal *(highly recommended*).
3. **Budget and Budget Justification** (no more than one page). Itemize and justify the costs requested.
	1. Suggested Max Budget: $2,500.
	2. Funds may be requested for wages/salary/fringes of students or other non-faculty effort for data collection.
	3. Unallowable costs: faculty salary, travel, tuition, facilities & administrative cost.

### Covid-19 Track Dates

Proposals will be accepted from, **April 6** through **August 31, 2020**. Project start and end dates are variable.

### Covid-19 Track Submission Instructions

Combine all requirements into one PDF file. Go to the Ole Miss InfoReady Review portal[[2]](#footnote-2) and click ***Disaster Resilience Constellation Round 3 Seed Grants: COVID-19 Track****;* then click *Submit Applicatio*n. Provide the requested information and upload the PDF proposal when prompted. If you do not receive an automated e-mail confirmation upon submission and acceptance, contact Kendra Sampey at orspresdev@olemiss.edu.

### Covid-19 Track Review Process

To ensure a quick turnaround, evaluations will be performed by non-conflicted members of the DRC Steering Committee. Awards and/or declinations will be announced as proposals are evaluated – generally within one to two weeks of proposal submission.

### Covid-19 Track Evaluation Criteria

1. **Collaborative Effort or Potential**. Preference will be given to proposals that include at least two investigators from different disciplines or departments. If all collaborators are from the same department, be sure to state how the disciplines are different. Single investigator studies with a demonstrated and verifiable potential to lead to future collaboration with another willing UM or UMMC researcher will also be considered.
2. **Relevance to Disaster Resilience** (significance and innovation)
3. **External Funding Potential** (the larger and/or more concrete, the better)

## **Standard Track**

### Standard Track Proposal Requirements

1. **Cover Page** containing names, primary appointment titles, departments, and e-mail addresses of the PI and any co-investigators (the Research Team)
2. Project Description (no more than 4 pages)
	1. Describe the project’s **significance, relevance,** and **innovation.**
	2. Any **Research Question(s)** or **Hypotheses** to be investigated.
	3. Provide project **objectives**, expected **outcomes**, and **timeline** for the project.
	4. **Potential for External Funding**. As specifically as you can, list and describe the external funding opportunity or opportunities this data will help you compete for.
3. **Budget and Budget Justification** (no more than one page). Itemize and justify the costs requested.
	1. Max Budget: $10,000.
	2. Funds may be requested for wages/salary/fringes of students or other non-faculty effort for data collection.
	3. Unallowable costs: faculty salary, travel, tuition, facilities & administrative costs.

### Standard Track Submission Instructions

Proposals due in InfoReady: **May 15, 2020**

Combine all requirements into one PDF file. Go to the Ole Miss InfoReady Review portal[[3]](#footnote-3) and click ***Disaster Resilience Constellation Round 3 Seed Grants: Standard Track****;* then click *Submit Applicatio*n. Provide the requested information and upload the PDF proposal when prompted. If you do not receive an automated e-mail confirmation upon submission and acceptance, contact Kendra Sampey at orspresdev@olemiss.edu.

### Standard Track Evaluation Criteria

1. **Collaborative Effort.** At least two investigators from different disciplines or departments are **required** for this track. If all collaborators are from the same department, state how the disciplines are different.
2. **Relevance to Disaster Resilience** (significance and innovation)
3. **Importance** to the Community, State, Nation, or World
4. **External Funding** Potential (the larger and/or more concrete, the better)
5. Potential for **Other Academic Deliverables** (e.g., peer reviewed papers, presentations, articles)
6. **Partnering** with Mississippi Communities, Organizations, and/or Projects
7. **Engaging Students** (undergraduate or graduate) within the project

### Standard Track Dates:

Round 3 Solicitation Release: April 3, 2020

Standard Solicitation Proposals due: May 15, 2020
Expected Notice of Award: July 15, 2020

Expected Project Start Date: August 1, 2020

Expected Project End Date: July 31, 2021

1. Eligibility to serve as a PI: <https://policies.olemiss.edu/ShowDetails.jsp?istatPara=1&policyObjidPara=10874763> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ole Miss InfoReady Review Portal: <https://olemiss.infoready4.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ole Miss InfoReady Review Portal: <https://olemiss.infoready4.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)