

Welcome!



Community Action Project Webinar

March 4, 2026, 12pm

www.cmcolearn.org



COLEARN brings together community members and researchers build relationships and support community-led projects to improve local preparedness and resilience to weather-related hazards.

Areas of interest:

- Agricultural Conservation Practices
- Environmental Monitoring
- Adaptation Planning
- Food Systems
- Policy and Advocacy



COLEARN is a NOAA RISA team, #NA23OAR4310629



Funding Opportunity: Community Action Projects

- **Objectives**
 - Improve resilience within our four-state region
 - Build partnerships of learning: among communities and the COLEARN team, within communities
- **Levels of Funding**
 - Level 1: Up to \$1,000
 - Level 2: Up to \$10,000
- **Timeline**
 - 1 year
- **Who can apply**
 - Incorporated non-profit groups
 - Units of Tribal, State, and Local Governments
 - Groups of people who form an informal association to carry out a project.
- **Rolling application deadline**



Agricultural Conservation

Using GIS-based maps to assist landowners in taking conservation action

This project creates and implements storytelling programming that integrates a GIS-based tool, Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) to support landowners in adopting conservation practices.



Women landowners in Iowa learn about soil health



Environmental Monitoring

Environmental Monitoring to Enhance Decision-Making across the Santee Sioux Nation

The goal of this community action project is to monitor environmental conditions to enhance decision-making capabilities for the Santee Sioux Nation (SSN) through the design and implementation of a weather sensor network.



NICC student of the year Rosalind Grant (UmoNhoN, Winnebago) installs a weather station on Santee Sioux Nation land and NICC campus.



Adaptation Planning

Resilience Kits for Nebraska Farmers

This project will provide 20 kits to farmers and landowners in our current programs and communities we work in across the state of Nebraska. These kits will provide essential tools for addressing resource concerns related to farming and conservation in the face of extreme weather.





Food Systems

Community Learning Circles and Meet-the-Producer Series

This project will coordinate and host two educational series (totaling 15 unique workshops and events) for the public to participate in, which will be co-led by partners and producers in the Omaha region. The two series are designed to revitalize sustainable land practices, elevate cultural food knowledge, reduce food waste, strengthen local food networks, and empower producers through education, connection, and community engagement.





Application and Award Process

- Accepted on a rolling basis, email to sarah-helmer@uiowa.edu
- Six-week review period
- Award Process:
 - Fill out UI Vendor application
 - Invoice only for expenses incurred
- Submit final report when project concludes
 - One page summary or 15-minute video
 - Answering a few basic questions about your project – goals, successes, next steps, etc.



Types of Expenses

Allowable Expenses:

- Personnel effort for PI/staff to conduct the project
- Travel costs associated with data collection, outreach, education, and dissemination
- Speaker Fees
- Participant stipends—This cost may be a flat amount per participant and would be provided to cover costs associated with participating in your activity or event
- Advertisement Costs
- Indirect costs/F&A is limited to 10% unless the organization has a federally negotiated rate
- Supplies or equipment up to \$5,000. Please contact us to discuss if you require equipment costs greater than \$5,000.

Not Allowable:

- Entertainment costs or social activities
- Costs associated with Land Improvements
- SWAG or give-away branded materials
- Honorarium or incentive payments
- General office supplies (this would be considered an F&A cost)
- Books or journals
- Dues, subscriptions, or membership fees
- Building acquisition, construction costs, capital expenditures for improvements to land
- Generally, food is NOT an allowed expense, unless part of an organized meeting or workshop that shares technical or educational information. Provide a draft agenda for the event with the proposal.



Connect with us

Martha Durr, Nebraska Indian Community College
Principal Investigator
Focus: Environmental Monitoring
mdurr@thenicc.edu

Tonya Haigh, University of Nebraska
Co Investigator
Focus: Agricultural Conservation
thaigh2@Nebraska.edu

Sarah Helmer, University of Iowa
Program Manager
Focus: Action project administration
sarah-helmer@uiowa.edu

Brandi Janssen, University of Iowa
Principal Investigator
Focus: Food Systems
brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu

Josh Roundy, University of Kansas
Co Principal Investigator
Focus: Environmental Monitoring
jroundy@ku.edu

Emily Rountree, University of Iowa (KC-based)
Research Specialist
Focus: Adaptation Planning
emily-rountree@uiowa.edu

Linda Shenk, Iowa State University
Principal Investigator
Focus: Agricultural Conservation
shenk@iastate.edu

Go to www.cmcolearn.org for more information and to
download the application