



2018 High-impact OER Mini-Grant Program Planning Document

Overview

The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) initiative, led by the University System of Maryland's William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, is seeking proposals for its High-Impact OER Mini-Grant program to strategically support Maryland public institutions' efforts to adopt open educational resources (OERs) as a means to greatly reduce textbook costs and address college affordability for students. Building on the prior success of the M.O.S.T. initiative and the first round of mini-grants, this funding program will target OER adoption in "high impact," high enrollment courses for which high-quality OER already exists. In addition to supporting adoption of OER by individual faculty, the program will also support the scaling of OER adoption within institutions across multiple course sections.

Two types of mini-grants will be awarded: 1) Adopt/Adapt OER (\$500 - \$1,500) and 2) Scaling OER (\$1,500 - \$2,500). Proposals must be received by **Friday, February 2, 2018**. Additional information regarding deadlines and timelines, eligibility criteria, participation requirements, and how to apply for grants in both categories is provided below.

High-impact OER Mini-Grant Program Timeline

- **December 8, 2017** - Call for proposals opens
- **December 11, 2017 – January 12, 2018** - Mini-grant informational webinars held¹ (see website for dates and registration information)
- **February 2, 2018 (5 PM Eastern Time)** - Deadline for all proposals
- **February 16, 2018** - Grantees notified
- **March 2018** – High-impact OER mini-grantees kickoff webinar
- **March – April 2018** - High-impact OER Adoption and Scaling workshops for Adopt/Adapt and Scaling OER grantees²
- **April - July 2018** - Final OER preparation work
- **August 2018** - Online or brief face-to-face training for adjuncts involved in Scaling grants

¹ We encourage attending one of these informational sessions before submitting your proposal

² Dates and locations for workshops will be selected based on the grantees selected and their availability

Adopt/Adapt OER Mini-Grants (\$500 - \$1,500)

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Adopt/Adapt OER mini-grant program, proposed projects must:

- Replace traditional textbooks with OER as a means to reduce students' costs and make education more affordable. After the project, total course materials costs cannot exceed \$40, with lower costs preferred.
- Replace traditional textbooks with accessible and openly licensed instructional materials.
- Target OER adoption in a high enrollment course for which high-quality OER content already exists and has been developed into comprehensive course materials, including supplemental materials such as test questions, presentation slides, and handouts. Such courses include but are not limited to³:

Freshman Seminar/College Success	Introduction to Psychology
English Composition I and II	Introduction to Sociology
Basic Reading & Writing	College Algebra
Introduction to College Composition	Beginning and Intermediate Algebra
American Literature I and II	Mathematics for Liberal Arts
U.S. History I and II	Introduction to Statistics
Music Appreciation	Biology I and II
Introduction to Business	Chemistry
Macro/Microeconomics	Geology
Principles of Marketing	Public Speaking/Communication

- Faculty applying for the Adopt/Adapt mini-grant must commit to teaching at least one section of the course using OER during the Fall 2018 semester. Adoption in more than one section is encouraged.

In addition, we will be looking for the following in Adopt/Adapt OER mini-grant proposals (preferred but not required):

- The potential to scale use of OER to most or all course sections over time.
- A general plan to sustain adoption over time.
- Some prior experience with OER.
- Institutional and/or departmental support to participate.

³ Please email cai@usmd.edu if you have questions regarding eligibility of specific courses

Participation Requirements

If selected, Adopt/Adapt OER mini-grant awardees will commit to the following:

- Participate in a one-hour pre-workshop webinar on OER Adoption Planning.
- Participate in a one-day face-to-face High-Impact OER Adoption workshop designed to help faculty adopt existing OER and prepare their course for delivery.
- Successfully implement proposed plan and meet student cost saving goals and accessibility and open licensing requirements.
- Complete a project planning template during the OER preparation period and complete a brief final grant report in Spring 2019.
- Create an “OER sustainability plan” during the Fall 2018 semester that addresses the resources needed to maintain and sustain the use of OERs in your course. For instance, resources may be needed to maintain the validity of OER content, supporting costs associated with instructional technologies, and providing professional development for faculty, instructional designers, librarians, and other staff.
- Be willing to participate in at least one faculty interview or focus group.
- Be willing to recruit students for at most one interview or focus group.
- Attend a High-impact OER Mini-Grant Program capstone event in Spring 2019.
- Share outcomes of OER adoption at a local or state professional development event.
- Complete a faculty survey and assist in administering a student survey⁴.
- Complete an award letter and faculty commitment form.
- Assist in collection of de-identified student impact data.

Scaling OER Adoption Mini-Grants (\$1,500 - \$2,500)

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Scaling OER Adoption mini-grant program, proposed projects must:

- Be led by someone with experience teaching with OER.
- Describe projects aimed at scaling the use of OER across multiple sections of a high enrollment course for which high-quality OER content already exists and has been developed into

⁴ These surveys have received IRB approval and all technical administration will be handled by Kirwan Center staff

comprehensive course materials, including supplemental materials such as test questions, presentation slides, and handouts. Such courses include but are not limited to⁵:

Freshman Seminar/College Success	Introduction to Psychology
English Composition I and II	Introduction to Sociology
Basic Reading & Writing	College Algebra
Introduction to College Composition	Beginning and Intermediate Algebra
American Literature I and II	Mathematics for Liberal Arts
U.S. History I and II	Introduction to Statistics
Music Appreciation	Biology I and II
Introduction to Business	Chemistry
Macro/Microeconomics	Geology
Principles of Marketing	Public Speaking/Communication

- Commit to scaling the use of OER to at least four sections of a “high impact” course during the Fall 2018 semester.
- Reduce students’ cost of course materials to \$40 or less.
- Replace traditional textbooks with accessible and openly licensed instructional materials.

In addition, we will be looking for the following in Scaling OER Adoption mini-grant proposals (preferred but not required):

- Includes institutional and/or departmental support to participate.
- Collaboration that involves multiple instructors, instructional designers, librarians, and support staff.
- A general plan to sustain adoption over time.

Participation Requirements

If selected, Scaling OER Adoption mini-grant awardees will need to commit to the following:

- Participate in a one-hour pre-workshop webinar on OER Scaling Planning.
- Participate in a one-day face-to-face High-Impact OER Scaling workshop designed to help faculty adopt existing OER, prepare their course for delivery, and share best practices and address barriers to success.

⁵ Please email cai@usmd.edu if you have questions regarding eligibility of specific courses

- If appropriate, help plan and coordinate faculty training for instructors teaching sections of the OER course. The workshop can be led by experienced OER trainers and will be provided free of cost by the Kirwan Center.
- Successfully implement the proposed OER scaling plan, meet student cost saving goals, and meet accessibility and open licensing requirements.
- Complete a project planning template during the OER preparation period and complete a brief final grant report in Spring 2019.
- Create an “OER sustainability plan” during the Fall 2018 semester that addresses the resources needed to maintain and sustain the use of OERs in your course. For instance, resources may be needed to maintain the validity of OER content, supporting costs associated with instructional technologies, and providing professional development for faculty, instructional designers, librarians, and other staff.
- Be willing to participate in at least one faculty interview or focus group.
- Be willing to recruit students for at most one interview or focus group.
- Attend a High-impact OER Mini-Grant Program capstone event in Spring 2019.
- Share the outcomes of OER adoption and scaling work at a local or state professional development event.
- Ensure all participating instructors complete a faculty survey and administer a student survey⁶.
- Complete an award letter and a faculty commitment form.
- Assist in collection of de-identified student impact data.

Proposal Review and How to Submit (applies to both mini-grant opportunities)

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select proposals to receive funding:

- Degree to which proposal meets or exceeds eligibility requirements
- Total student cost savings
- Level of institutional or departmental support
- Feasibility of meeting cost saving goals within time and budget constraints

To submit your proposal:

Using this planning document as a guide, complete the High-impact OER Mini-Grant Program Application and **submit the proposal by 5 PM Eastern Time on Friday, February 2, 2018**. Applicants are encouraged to attend one of the Mini-Grant Informational Webinars prior to submitting a proposal (see the Kirwan Center website for the webinar schedule). Please email completed proposals in MS Word or PDF format to cai@usmd.edu.

⁶ These surveys have received IRB approval and all technical administration will be handled by Kirwan Center staff