



Office of the Provost

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED DATA DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS



Division of Community Engagement

Office of the Provost

Submission Deadline: Jan. 16, 2026 at 5pm EST



community.vcu.edu



 dcegrantsinfo@vcu.edu



Overview

The Division of Community Engagement in the Office of the Provost invites proposals from faculty for innovative, community-focused research data dissemination projects. This is the second year we are offering this opportunity, following the strong interest and success of last year's call.

This initiative gives faculty a chance to place their work at the intersection of community engagement and scholarship. Community-engaged dissemination - the process, the partnerships, and the outputs - is valued as a meaningful form of scholarship. Faculty supported through this program will contribute to the growing field of community-engaged scholarship and to the science of community engagement. This opportunity is designed to help faculty produce work that is valuable for communities and also contributes to the academic record through publications, presentations, and other scholarly outputs.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP



Community stakeholders and research participants often ask: ***What happened to the results? What did you find, and how are you sharing it?*** This initiative is designed to help faculty answer those questions in ways that strengthen scholarship. A main purpose of the program is to support innovative, community-engaged dissemination practices that lead to scholarly products. Proposals should describe how dissemination activities will result in outputs such as journal articles, book chapters, methodological case studies, conference presentations, or more.

By documenting and publishing approaches, outcomes, and impacts, faculty can show what works in sharing research with communities and ensure that this work is rigorous, visible, and influential across disciplines.

GOALS

THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THIS GRANT ARE:



I. INNOVATIVE DISSEMINATION

Encourage faculty to use creative, accessible ways of sharing research findings that are engaging and meaningful for community audiences.

II. TWO-WAY ENGAGEMENT

Support open dialogue between researchers and communities that allows for feedback, shared learning, and co-created ideas based on research findings. This type of engagement can also spark new opportunities for collaboration.

III. FACULTY OUTPUTS

Strengthen faculty scholarship by supporting dissemination activities that generate publishable outputs and contribute to the evidence base for community-engaged research.

IV. COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ensure that research findings are shared in formats that matter to communities, build trust, and encourage future partnerships and participation.

SCOPE

We are seeking dissemination approaches that use community-informed strategies such as storytelling, visual arts, performance, spoken word, multimedia, public events, or interactive exhibits. These approaches should not only share findings but also strengthen the broader science of community engagement.



ELIGIBILITY AND SUPPORT

- Must be a faculty member.
- Faculty at all ranks may apply.
- Applicants should include evidence of or plans for partnership with community stakeholders.
- Proposals should outline what support is needed (e.g., budget for media, collaborators, time, training).
- Funding decisions will consider both the quality of dissemination activities and the scholarly outputs expected from the work.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following:

- Strength and appropriateness of the proposed dissemination methods.
- Evidence of community partner involvement in planning, design, or implementation.
- Clarity and feasibility of plans for scholarly outputs (e.g., publications, presentations).
- Potential for advancing community-engaged scholarship through innovative dissemination.
- A realistic budget and departmental support.



FUNDING AND SCOPE

We are especially interested in supporting faculty who have completed research projects with known findings but who have not had the resources to focus on community-based dissemination. The goal is to help faculty and research staff expand dissemination into intentional, community-engaged initiatives.

- Successful applications will receive up to \$5,000 to support the development and implementation of a community-informed dissemination event or initiative.
- Funds may be used for:
 - Collaborating with local artists or performers
 - Engaging community members, students, or other participants
 - Supplies, materials, or venue costs
 - Other reasonable expenses needed to carry out the project

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Faculty should structure their proposals using the outline below. This format is designed to help reviewers understand the purpose, community relevance, and scholarly contributions of the proposed dissemination project.

I. TITLE AND ABSTRACT

- Provide a short project title.
- Include a 150-word abstract that summarizes the project, key activities, and intended impact.

II. NARRATIVE

(up to four pages, 0.5-inch margins, 11-point Arial font)

- **Rationale (1/4 page)**

Explain why dissemination matters for your project. Describe how dissemination will advance your research, serve as accountability to communities, and contribute to your scholarship.

- **Research Summary (1/2 page)**

Provide a brief overview of the completed research and findings that will be disseminated. Include your research question, data collection methods, and the most significant results.

- **Community or Stakeholder Engagement (1/2 page)**

Identify the community or stakeholder group(s) you plan to engage. Explain why these groups are important, how they will be involved in shaping or participating in dissemination, and what you hope to achieve through their engagement.

- **Dissemination Plan (2 pages)**

Describe your approach to sharing research findings in ways that are engaging, creative, and accessible. Go beyond traditional academic presentations and consider formats such as storytelling, visual arts, spoken word, multimedia, public events, or interactive forums. Address the key questions communities often ask: “So what? How does this relate to us? What can change as a result?” Make clear how community voices will be part of the process.

- **Outputs and Scholarship (1/2 page)**

Clearly identify the products you will create through your dissemination activities (e.g., briefs, videos, workshops, infographics, performances) and explain how they will be used and by whom. Also describe the scholarly outputs you expect to develop, such as journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, or methodological case studies. Emphasize how both the dissemination process and the products represent faculty scholarship and contribute to the advancement of community engagement scholarship.

- **Timeline (1/4 page)**

Provide a realistic timeline with milestones from planning through evaluation.

- **Evaluation Plan (1/4 page)**

Explain how you will measure success. Describe how you will assess community engagement, usefulness, and impact as well as how you will document outcomes for scholarly purposes.

III. BUDGET

(use template provided on page 12)

- Present an itemized budget using the standardized template.
- Categories may include: materials and supplies, printing and production of outputs, event costs, partner stipends, travel, and other dissemination-related expenses.
- If additional funds from other sources will support the project, include a brief cost-sharing plan.

IV. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- Two letters are required:
 - One letter from a community partner.
 - One letter from your Department Chair confirming support.

HOW TO APPLY

- **Prepare your proposal following the requirements.**
- **Email your proposal to dcegrantsinfo@vcu.edu by January 16, 2026**
- **Subject line suggestion: Data Dissemination RFP Application – [First Name, Last Name]**

REVIEW CRITERIA

I. Rationale

- Clarity of why dissemination is important for the project.
- How the proposed work will advance both research and faculty scholarship.

II. Research Summary

- Clear explanation of the completed research and the key findings to be shared.

III. Community or Stakeholder Engagement

- Evidence of meaningful involvement of community or stakeholder partners.
- Appropriateness of the target audience for dissemination.

IV. Dissemination Plan

- Creativity and accessibility of the proposed dissemination methods.
- Clear plan for engagement that moves beyond one-directional communication.
- Ability to address the “so what” question: why the findings matter and what could change as a result.

V. Outputs and Faculty Scholarship

- Identification of dissemination products (e.g., briefs, videos, events, workshops).
- Plans for scholarly outputs (e.g., articles, case studies, presentations).
- Contribution to the growing field of community-engaged scholarship.

VI. Timeline

- Realistic and achievable milestones for planning, implementation, and evaluation.

VII. Evaluation Plan

- Clear strategies to assess both community engagement and scholarly outcomes.

VIII. Budget

- Feasible and well-justified budget using the provided template.
- Inclusion of cost-sharing, if relevant.

IX. Sustainability

- Consideration of whether products or approaches could have use beyond the grant period.

X. Letters of Support

- Strength of letters from community partner(s) and the Department Chair.

Each proposal will be scored on a 100-point scale, with reviewers considering the overall strength, clarity, and feasibility of the project.

EXAMPLES OF CREATIVE DISSEMINATION



THEATER AND PERFORMANCE

- **Playback Theatre:** This form of improvisational theater involves audience members telling stories from their lives, which are then enacted on the spot by actors. It has been used to share research findings in a way that resonates emotionally with the community.



VISUAL ARTS

- **Community Murals:** Creating murals based on research findings can visually communicate data and engage community members in the process.
- **Infographics and Animations:** These tools can simplify complex data and make it more accessible and engaging for a broader audience.



SPOKENWORD AND STORYTELLING

- **Spoken Word Performances:** Researchers have collaborated with spoken word artists to present research findings in a compelling and relatable manner.
- **Story Circles:** This method involves community members sharing their stories in a circle, fostering a sense of connection and understanding while disseminating research findings.



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND CAFÉS

- **Science Cafés:** Informal gatherings where researchers present their findings in a casual setting, encouraging open dialogue and feedback from the community.
- **Knowledge Cafés:** These are structured conversational processes for sharing knowledge and ideas, often used to disseminate research findings in an interactive and engaging way.

BUDGET TEMPLATE

Applicants should complete the budget in the format below. Add rows if needed. Be sure to provide both estimated costs and justifications for each category.

Category	Description (itemize specific costs)	Estimated Cost	Justification
Materials and Supplies			
Production Outputs			
Event Costs			
Collaborator/Partner Stipends			
Travel			
Other Costs			
Cost Sharing (if applicable)			

Total Request: _____

[CLICK HERE DOWNLOAD THE BUDGET TEMPLATE](#)

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

We encourage all interested applicants to **register** for these sessions to gain valuable insights into the RFP and ask any questions you may have.

Date	Details	Time	Link to Register
Wed., October 29, 2025	Data-Dissemination Grant Info Session	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Registration
Wed., November 12, 2025	Panel Discussion - Learn From Past Grant Awardees	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Registration
Tues., December 9, 2025	Data-Dissemination Grant Info Session	12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Registration

TIMELINE

Date	Details
Monday, October 6, 2025	Request for Proposals Announced
Friday, January 16, 2026	Grant Applications Due
Monday, March 16, 2026	Awardees Announced
July 2026 - July 2027	Grant Period
July 21, 2027	Final Report Due

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Submit a Final Report:



- Two-page overview of activities conducted.
- Share pictures of events and other relevant products/outputs
- Include quantitative metrics, such as the number of attendees at events and other pre-specified metrics identified by the applicant.

Attend a Panel Discussion:



- Participate in a session with other faculty interested in submitting a Fall 2026 proposal to share experiences and insights on community-based data dissemination for research purposes.

Enter completed project activity in VCU's Partnership Database Collaboratory



- Grant recipients will be required to enter project activities into VCU's Partnership Database, Collaboratory. Training and support will be provided.

RESOURCES

- [Data Dissemination in CBPR](#)
- [CDC Toolkit and Worksheets.pdf](#)
- [Data Dissemination Framework Document: CONNECT: Community-Engaged, Community-Based Data Dissemination Framework, Division of Community Engagement](#)

Scholarly Articles and Resources (Microsoft Copilot AI-generated; please verify references):

- **Ten Simple Rules for Innovative Dissemination of Research:** This article outlines ten steps researchers can take to disseminate their work in novel and engaging ways, such as using social media, blogs, and open notebooks.
- **Creative Methods of Research Dissemination:** This blog post shares four creative methods of research dissemination inspired by a knowledge café organized by the Social Research Association North.
- **Community-Engaged Surveys: From Research Design to Analysis and Dissemination:** This toolkit provides methods for engaging the community in survey research, including gathering and documenting community input, and ensuring the data and findings are used sustainably.
- **Dissemination in Community-Engaged Research: Guidelines for Practice:** This guide discusses various forms of dissemination in community-based participatory research (CBPR), such as websites, blog posts, social media, infographics, animations, and science cafes.



DISSEMINATE DATA
in a
**CREATIVE
WAY**

THANK YOU

We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals by the submission deadline on January 16, 2026, at 5 pm EST. Please submit your proposal via email to dcegrantsinfo@vcu.edu.

Thank you for your commitment to impactful, community-engaged research!



[COMMUNITY.VCU.EDU](https://community.vcu.edu)



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