

CRC Spring 2026 Small Grant RFA

As part of the 2023 law to legalize the use of cannabis by adults in Minnesota, the legislature designated funding to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health to establish a [Cannabis Research Center \(CRC\)](#). The CRC strives to understand the health implications of cannabis and be a trusted source of information to guide policy and practice related to cannabis use. To accomplish this, the CRC conducts timely and Minnesota-centered research on both the positive and negative health effects of cannabis, studies issues pertaining to equity, provides interpretation and contextualization of research findings and collaborates with state and local agencies, policymakers, and community members to address key research questions pertaining to cannabis legalization. Finally, the CRC trains and supports future practitioners and scholars to engage in research related to cannabis policy and its effects on health and health equity.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The CRC announces the continuation of its small grants funding program to support cannabis-related research. The legislation specifies that the CRC “must investigate the effects of cannabis use on health, and research other topics related to cannabis, including but not limited to prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, equity issues, education and decriminalization.” For this funding cycle, the CRC is particularly interested in proposals focusing on the potential health benefits of cannabis and issues related to treatment of cannabis use disorder. Additionally, we remain interested in supporting a broad range of research projects that are robust and align with the [CRC’s mission](#). Applications seeking support for projects that may lead to future external funding are strongly encouraged. We welcome project proposals on a broad-range of public health-relevant cannabis topics.

PROJECT FUNDING

This call for proposals is intended to fund research projects on novel topics that may include original data collection, secondary data analysis, or pilot studies. Each application is capped at \$50K over a 12-month period (budgets may include investigator effort). The CRC anticipates funding up to 3 awards this Spring 2026 cycle (see key dates below). A final report summarizing research activities and results must be received within one month of the end of the grant funding period (a template for the final report will be provided).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Principal Investigators must be faculty at the University of Minnesota; priority will be given to applications that include School of Public Health investigators. Co-investigators are not required to be affiliated with the University of Minnesota. Principal investigators may submit one application per funding cycle.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposal (**max 3-pages** [single-spaced, 11-point Arial font] not including budget and biosketches) is due by **May 15, 2026 (5:00 PM CST)**. Please email all submission materials to cannabisrc@umn.edu. The proposal should be organized using the information below.

1. Title
2. PI and Co-investigators
3. Aims
4. Significance/Rationale/Impact
5. Approach
 - a. Community Partners (optional)
 - b. Study Design
 - c. Participants
 - d. Data and Measures
 - e. Analysis Plan
 - f. Dissemination Plans
 - g. Timeline
 - h. Human Subjects
6. Discussion of how the project addresses health equity
7. Products (e.g., articles, briefs)
8. Plan for future proposals for external funding
9. Budget Spreadsheet (a template is available; include any other project funding secured)
10. Investigator Biosketches

Please note: Cannabis Research Center staff are available to answer technical assistance questions. Typical questions that we help answer for researchers are: What is currently happening with cannabis legalization and implementation in Minnesota? How does cannabis potentially relate to a wide range of health and equity-related issues? What are existing sources of cannabis-related data? If you have technical assistance questions, email cannabisrc@umn.edu.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Each application will be reviewed by 3 reviewers. Scoring will be based on the NIH system. Each application will receive a score on: Importance, Rigor, and Topic Relevance. Fit with CRC priority areas and health equity focus will also be considered in evaluating applications. Funding will be contingent on IRB approval. Award notifications will be made by **June 15, 2026**.

KEY DATES

- Proposals due **May 15, 2026**
- Award notification by **June 15, 2026**
- Expected funding period is **July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**. Please include information in your application if you are requesting funding for dates outside of that timeline.

ABOUT THE CANNABIS RESEARCH CENTER

The University of Minnesota School of Public Health Cannabis Research Center (CRC) strives to understand the health implications of cannabis and be a trusted source of information to guide policy and practice related to cannabis use.

CONTACT INFORMATION | cannabisrc@umn.edu | z.umn.edu/CannabisResearchCenter