



STUDENT SUPPORT FUND FOR  
**UNDERREPRESENTED  
STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY**

### Underrepresented Students in Sustainability (USS) Support Fund

*To financially support undergraduates exploring careers in sustainability & the environment, particularly those who are affected by underrepresentation in the field.*

Students and staff at the University of Iowa Office of Sustainability collaborated to create this fund as a resource to assist underrepresented students with expenses that advance their educational or professional development in sustainability. Grant funds may be designated for educational expenses, compensation for unpaid work, materials for student projects, and other opportunities **related to a student's educational or professional development in sustainability.**

All students with an interest in environmental sustainability are welcomed to apply.

#### Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 2.5\*
- Be a currently enrolled student at the University of Iowa
- *Funds may be used for a wide variety of opportunities and expenses **but should be tied to a student's educational or professional development in sustainability.***

\*Students with a GPA below 2.5 are encouraged to apply and may submit a short explanation of their circumstances.

#### Preference may be given to students who:

- Identify with a group that is underrepresented in environmental sustainability.
- Come from economically, geographically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds (including demonstrated financial need).
- Have demonstrated interest in environmental justice and working with underserved populations.

#### Suggested Uses for Grant Funds\*

- Compensation for unpaid work: research, volunteering, time spent with USS mentor, serving on a committee, etc.
- Materials for student projects: student compensation, physical materials, services, etc.

- Educational expenses: textbooks, related living expenses, etc.
- Other opportunities: conferences, professional development, certifications, trade association membership, etc.

\*Grant funds may not be awarded for expenses that have already been incurred.

### **Application Process**

- Students will submit an application with their name, graduation year, educational focus, desired grant amount, and an explanation of how the funds will be used to support their educational or professional development in sustainability.
- Applications will be reviewed anonymously by a small committee of University of Iowa students and staff. Grant funds will be distributed on a monthly basis. The application deadline is the end of each month from September through May. Exceptions may be made by emailing [sustainability@uiowa.edu](mailto:sustainability@uiowa.edu) with an explanation of circumstances. Applicants are encouraged to apply at least two months (one funding cycle) in advance of when the funds are required to ensure that they are provided in a timely manner.
- Applicants will be notified of their application status within 45 days of application submission. Notification will be provided in the form of an email from the Office of Sustainability.

### **Determining Funding Amounts**

- Awarded funds are anticipated to average approx. \$150 per student per semester. Students may ask for as much as they want, but their award may only cover a portion of their request.
  - If a student cannot complete a project with the funds awarded to them, the funds may not be provided until the student has all of the funds that they need. The committee may choose to assist a student in finding and applying to other funding sources.