

Criteria for Evaluation

Research!America welcomes novel ideas to develop and test public engagement training resources for STEMM audiences. Our goal is to support current civic science practitioners while encouraging new practitioners to enter the field. The content created through these awards will be made publicly available, helping address gaps in science communication, civic science, and public engagement training within graduate STEMM education.

Training resources may be delivered through a variety of formats, including classroom instruction, workshops, online learning, and campus-based special interest groups.

The rubric below will be used to evaluate applications.

Highly competitive proposals will clearly address the following:

1. **Rationale:** The applicant's prior experience aligns well with the proposed curriculum development. The proposed curriculum addresses an unmet need in public engagement training and prepares participants to engage effectively with community members and other stakeholders.
2. **Learning Objectives:** The proposal identifies specific learning objectives and skills, knowledge, and/or perspectives that are relevant to the needs of the target audience and that will improve participants' ability to engage in meaningful dialogue, collaboration, or mutual learning with community members and other stakeholders.
3. **Target Audience and Delivery Method:** The target audience and delivery method are appropriate and align with the stated learning objectives.
4. **Validation Plan:** A clear plan for piloting, beta testing, and/or gathering feedback on the training content is provided.
5. **Timeline and Feasibility:** The proposed timeline is well-defined with realistic milestones. It is clear that the curriculum can be completed within the January to July project period.
6. **Application of Skills for Public Engagement:** The proposal demonstrates how participants will be able to apply acquired skills to engage meaningfully with community members, public officials, patients, policymakers, or other stakeholders after completing the training.

Public Engagement Content Awards Rubric

10/19/26

	Meets All Expectations (3)	Meets Many Expectations (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Missing Key Elements (0)	Score
Rationale	Clear, relevant public engagement experience is well articulated. Includes strong examples of curriculum development. Clearly identifies a specific unmet need and demonstrates how the curriculum will prepare participants for meaningful engagement with community members and other stakeholders.	Experience in public engagement is generally clear but lacks some detail. Describes curriculum development with reasonable clarity and relevance. Identifies an unmet need with some explanation, though the significance or proposed solution could be strengthened.	Mentions public engagement and curriculum development but provides limited detail or relevance. Identifies a need but provides little justification or explanation of how the curriculum will address it.	Minimal or no mention of public engagement experience and curriculum development. No clear identification of an unmet need.	
Learning Objectives	The learning objectives are specific, well developed, and align with the stated rationale. Proposed skills, knowledge, and/or perspectives are appropriate for the target audience.	The learning objectives are somewhat broad but generally align with the stated rationale. Proposed skills, knowledge, and/or perspectives are mostly appropriate for the target audience.	The learning objectives are vague, incomplete, or only partially aligned with the stated rationale. Proposed skills, knowledge, and/or perspectives are not clearly appropriate for the target audience.	The learning objectives are not clearly stated and do not align with the stated rationale.	
Target Audience & Delivery Method	The target audience and delivery methods selected align with the stated learning objectives.	The target audience and delivery methods selected somewhat align with the stated learning objectives.	The target audience and/or delivery methods are identified but do not clearly align with the stated learning objectives.	The target audience and delivery methods are unclear or missing and do not align with the stated learning objectives.	
Validation Plan	The validation plan is clearly stated and includes a feasible, detailed approach for piloting the curriculum and gathering feedback from target audiences, collaborators, or other relevant stakeholders.	The validation plan is generally described and includes a reasonable approach for piloting the curriculum and gathering feedback, though details are limited.	The validation plan is incomplete, lacks feasibility, or is unlikely to gather meaningful feedback from target audiences, collaborators, or other relevant stakeholders.	No plan for piloting, validation, or feedback collection is provided.	
Timeline and Feasibility	The proposed timeline is well-defined with realistic milestones. It is clear that the curriculum can be completed within the January to July project period.	The timeline is generally realistic with key milestones identified, but some parts lack clarity or detail. The project appears feasible within the timeframe, though some deadlines could be challenging.	The timeline is partially defined but lacks several key milestones or is overly ambitious, making successful completion uncertain.	No timeline or milestones are provided.	

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Application of Skills for Public Engagement	Provides a clear, detailed plan showing how participants will apply learned skills through meaningful engagement, dialogue, collaboration, or mutual learning with community members and other stakeholders. Includes specific mechanisms and examples.	Describes how participants may apply acquired skills through public engagement activities and suggests some mechanisms, though details or implementation plans are limited.	Suggests possible application of skills but is vague and lacks clarity on how it will occur and/or does not include concrete mechanisms.	No mention of how skills will be applied to public engagement or any mechanisms to ensure application.	
Total Score				(Maximum Score: 18)	