

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Milgrom Student and Post-Doc Research Initiative Grant

February 27, 2025

Background

During his life, the late Hymen Milgrom donated substantially towards improving urban education, most significantly through the Urban Teacher Education Program at the University of Chicago, a program that has since progressed to a large scale with federal funding. The Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization (HMSO), created with a \$17-million gift to the University of Chicago from the estate of Hymen T. Milgrom (AB, Accounting, '35), was established to seek ways that public education can help urban children become more highly skilled and more successful as adults.

In service of this, the HMSO launched several programs.

- The “Successful Pathways from School to Work” research initiative, launched in 2013, supports research that will help educators become more effective in fostering the skills, dispositions, and experiences essential for success in the modern labor market, as well as in society as a whole.
- The Milgrom Community Service and Innovation Fellowship for University of Chicago students, launched in 2018 focuses on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth in Chicago through education-related community service.
- The Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge, launched in 2019, focuses on designing solutions to problems facing Chicago neighborhoods and communities by funding University of Chicago organizations to provide programming to University of Chicago students to work collaboratively with students from Chicago public middle schools and high schools to generate entrepreneurial solutions to educational needs in local communities while building students’ academic, workplace and leadership skills with support from the grantee organization.
- The Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship, launched in 2022, focuses on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged youth in Chicago and their opportunities for successful employment by developing their computer coding and programming skill.
- The Milgrom Community Based STEM Program. Beginning in 2023 and in partnership with the Bright Star Community Organization, the overarching goal of this program is to provide students with meaningful STEM learning opportunities that will serve as a vehicle for successful pathways to employment.

Request for Proposals

The HMSO seeks to expand its support to graduate students and post-docs and is soliciting proposal topics fostering the skills, dispositions, and experiences essential to prepare heterogeneous students for successful pathways into the modern labor market. The HMSO encourages developing projects relating to coding and computer skills, but funds projects across a broad spectrum of relevant disciplines. **Projects should focus on the impact of the transitioning economy on youth and on their evolving pathways to employment.** All proposals must fulfill the stated purposes of the supporting organization and answer the question, "How is the proposed project relevant to the HMSO goals?"

Who May Apply

The HMSO will offer support for doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars at the University of Chicago for up to \$10,000 per year for up to two years, for research-related expenses. *Applications must be accompanied by a CV and a letter of recommendation from a faculty mentor.* The HMSO anticipates awarding up to four research grants in 2025. The HMSO is especially interested in projects that graduate students and post-docs initiate that are not part of their mentors' funded research: i.e., independent projects driven by individuals' own interests and agendas. Proposal guidelines are below.

Duration and Level of Support

The HMSO will consider applications for either one-year or two-year grants, for a grant period beginning in summer of 2025. Maximum level of support is \$10K per year, for up to two years. Two-year projects will be disbursed in two installments: a) initially; and b) after 12 months, conditional on review of a progress report due 9 months after the start of the study. Grantees should plan to complete not only the data collection, but also the analysis and "writing up" of their results within the time frame of their grant. The HMSO expects grantees to have an academic article either published or submitted to a scholarly journal by the end of the grant period. The "time schedule" section should state clearly the plan for accomplishing this. All publications and presentations arising from this award need to be acknowledged. It is appreciated if copies of all products generated with funding from this award (current or in the future) be submitted to the board.

Guidelines for Proposal

Applications should not exceed 5 single-spaced pages and should include the following sections, in this order:

1. Title and Abstract (250 words)
2. Specific research question(s)
3. Rationale and Significance
4. Data
5. Personnel

6. Evaluation (Measures and Outcomes)
7. Time Schedule
 - a. Proposed Start and End dates for award
 - b. Describe the timing and duration of key activities, including both planning/development and program implementation and if you will require IRB approval or school access approval.
8. Budget (template on InfoReady website - see below)
 - a. Provide detailed budget (by year, if applicable) and itemized justification for your project
 - b. If appropriate, describe how the program will leverage existing campus resources and what new resources will be required to implement your plans.
 - c. The total budget should not exceed \$10K per year for a maximum of \$20K for two years.
 - d. No funding is available for university overhead expenses.

Additional Documents (Not included in page limits):

1. CV for all personnel (5 pages Max).
2. Faculty Approval Letter
3. Letter of Recommendation (attach to InfoReady application or email to jodikhan@uchicago.edu)
4. Letter of Support (optional) from partner or collaborator.

Application Process and Deadlines

Completed applications must be received no later than April 15, 2025 at 11:59 pm and should be submitted via <https://uchicago.infoready4.com>. Grant awards will be announced no later than June 1, 2025.

Questions related to the Milgrom Research Grant can be sent to Jodi Khan at jodikhan@uchicago.edu .
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