Schwehr Family Global Service-Learning Initiative

Call for Proposals and Funding Guidelines – Fall 2025

Deadline
Proposals will be accepted through **September 30, 2025.**

Overview
Clemson University invites proposals for funding to support service-learning projects that engage Clemson students with underserved individuals and communities. This competitive funding supports projects that combine academic and personal development with community-based impact. Projects may be global or U.S.-based but should include a significant element of cross-cultural engagement and learning. To be considered, proposals must demonstrate how grant funds will immediately and directly mobilize students to participate in high-impact service-learning projects with a concrete, defined outcome.

Awards are being made possible by the *Schwehr Family Global Service-Learning Endowment* and the operating fund titled, "Global Service-Learning Initiatives". Both funds were established by Michael "Mike" W. Schwehr ('81), along with Mike's two daughters, Laurel Michelle Schwehr and Victoria Leigh Schwehr ('16). The Schwehr family wishes to ensure valuable resources are available for student service-learning at home and in the developing world. Project proposals are being solicited and evaluated through the Clemson Office of Global Engagement.

Eligibility
- Each proposal must be spearheaded by a Clemson faculty or staff member, who may work alone or as part of a proposed team.
- Projects may be housed within one or more Clemson departments, schools or colleges.
- Projects must center student learning and development through defined, hands-on service-learning activities.
- Projects may be open to graduate or undergraduate students.
- Proposed service-learning activities must be impactful; participation is open to all Clemson students whose service-learning activities will benefit underserved individuals and communities.
- Projects should include an element of global or cross-cultural engagement.
- Projects may involve cooperation with third-party organizations, but the primary focus of the project must be impactful service-learning involving Clemson students.

Funding
- Awards are variable dependent on need and may be made in an amount less than requested. It is not expected that individual awards will exceed $10,000 per year or $20,000 in total over a maximum 3-year period, though exceptions may be made in compelling cases.

- All proposals must be accompanied by a budget that outlines the proposed use of funds; insufficient detail will result in a denial or reduction in awarded funding.
- Proposed funds may be used to support student travel, supplies, permits, insurance, and associated project expenses.
- Funds will be disbursed annually and should be spent over the following 12-month period.
- Multi-year projects may be proposed up to a 3-year maximum subject to achievement of defined annual performance benchmarks.
- Although funds may be used for project development costs, projects will be favored which allocate funding in the greatest degree possible to mobilize Clemson students for service-learning activities that directly impact underserved communities.
- Funds may not be used for conference travel, faculty-led workshops, direct donations, indirect costs, or expenses that do not directly support student learning.
- At least once annually following successful award, the proposal team must submit a financial report summarizing grant expenditures and outcomes achieved.

Required Proposal Content

Proposals should consist of a project narrative of no more than 1,000 words, letters of support, and a proposed budget submitted in .pdf, Word, or Excel format. The project narrative should contain the following information:

- Names, titles, and proposed roles of the Clemson project leader and all team members.
- A description of the service-learning activity sufficient for a layperson to understand the activity that Clemson students would be undertaking.
- A description of the impacted individuals or community together with an explanation of how the service-learning activity will directly benefit those individuals.
- A summary of academic relevance and student learning outcomes, including cross-cultural learning targeted as part of the proposed activities. Proposals should specify whether the service-learning activities will take place as part of a credit bearing course or as a co-curricular activity.
- A timeline for project activities and an identification of the number of students and beneficiaries impacted.
- A description of partners involved in the project.
- A plan for assessing student and community impact against stated goals and objectives.

Submissions may be made by email to oge@clemson.edu and should contain:
- Project narrative (1,000 words max)
- Letter of support from the project leader's academic or administrative unit
- Proposed budget showing proposed uses of grant funds in sufficient detail to ascertain sufficiency and reasonableness. Awards may be made in amounts less than requested.

Evaluation Criteria and Procedures

Vetting and review of proposals will be coordinated by the Office of Global Engagement with input from an internally appointed committee consisting of faculty and administrative staff who

have experiential-learning experience. The following will be considered by the review committee:

> **Impact.** Proposals will be favored which demonstrate the clearest possible connection between defined service-learning activities and the needs of underserved individuals or communities.

> **Clarity of Learning Outcomes**. Proposals will be favored which articulate clear and achievable student learning outcomes, identifying a compelling connection between the proposed service-learning activity and achievement of those outcomes for Clemson students.

> **Financial Stewardship.** Proposals will be favored which are likely to achieve the greatest impact among underserved individuals and communities while facilitating positive learning outcomes among the greatest number of Clemson students given the resources requested.

> **Sustainability.** Proposals will be favored which lay the groundwork for ongoing service-learning opportunities through the development of partnerships or additional sources of funding.

Submission
Proposals should be submitted to oge@clemson.edu no later than midnight (Eastern time) on the deadline identified above.

Award Conditions
Annual project reports will be required identifying activity, impact, and use of awarded funds.

Contact for questions: oge@clemson.edu