



FIRST Equity & Inclusion Financing Initiative for
FIRST in Upper Midwest
(FEI FI FO FUM GRANT)

Issued September 29, 2021

Purpose:

- *FIRST* in the Upper Midwest (FUM) understands the importance of including diverse abilities and perspectives within each team. The *FIRST* Equity & Inclusion Financing Initiative for *FIRST* in Upper Midwest will provide FUM *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams with a grant to implement a project that will make changes to culture and increase the participation and success of [underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations](https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion) (<https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion>) in *FIRST* Robotics in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota..
- FUM is seeking new and creative proposals from FRC teams, with the understanding that they may or may not have the desired effect immediately. The proposed project should not be something the team is currently doing but rather a new initiative based on an assessment of team diversity and culture that is intended to make positive change that increases the participation and success of [underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations](https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion) (<https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion>) in robotics. Diverse populations will not be the same for every team, so we anticipate that successful proposals will address an aspect of diversity, equity and inclusion that is unique to the team and its community. Teams are encouraged to identify barriers to inclusion and then decide what they want to do and how they will measure success. Projects could include but are not limited to: “Girls Night in the Shop”, development of materials in different languages, speaker fees and other costs for a team diversity and inclusion event, new efforts to recruit and support students from an underrepresented group, community outreach and education focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, etc.
- The proposal should have a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound (SMART) goal with a one year time frame.
- Grants are available between \$100 and \$1,000



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Application and review process:

To request funding, an eligible FRC team in Minnesota, North Dakota or South Dakota can submit a brief application that describes the project, the project goal, the accountability measures and plan for assessment of the project's impact and success, and how the requested funds will be spent to implement the project. Applications will be reviewed by a FUM ad hoc committee.

- **Eligible Teams:** Any FIRST Robotics Competition team in Minnesota, North Dakota or South Dakota registered to compete in the 2022 "Rapid React" competition season that is interested in making a positive impact by increasing the participation and success of underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations (<https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion>) in FIRST Robotics. Grant distribution will attempt to make awards geographically representative within Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Teams that have previously been awarded a FIRST Equity and Access Grant or a FEI FI FO FUM Grant are NOT eligible to apply.
- **Grant Value:** Any amount between \$100 and \$1,000. Teams are only eligible to receive one award.
- **Grant Requirements:** Grant will be awarded in cash to the "team" (school district or team account), and not to individuals, upon approval of the grant proposal and receipt of an IRS Form W-9. The project must be completed and the funds spent by June 30, 2022. A summary report describing the project outcome, how the funds were spent, and any photos must be submitted to FUM by no later than July 31, 2022. Awarded teams may also be asked by FUM to present their project at events such as regional competitions, FUM meetings, or Jumpstart.
- **Online application at** <http://bit.ly/fumdeigrant2021>
- **Application Due Date:** 5:00 PM Monday, November 1, 2021
- **Questions?** Contact Yoji Shimizu at yoji.shimizu@firstuppermidwest.org