



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

Issued September 1, 2023

Purpose:

- The *FIRST* Equity & Inclusion Financing Initiative for *FIRST* in Upper Midwest (FEI FI FO FUM) provides grants and/or support to *FIRST* in Upper Midwest (FUM) *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams that seek to make changes to culture and increase the participation and/or 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..
- The FEI FI FO FUM program supports new initiatives or a new aspect of a previously started project that is intended to make positive change that increases the participation and/or success of [underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations](https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion) (<https://www.firstinspires.org/about/diversityinclusion>) in robotics. We anticipate that successful proposals will address an aspect of diversity, equity and inclusion that is unique to the team and its community, or to the broader FRC community in the Upper Midwest. Applicants should identify barriers to inclusion and then decide what they want to do and how they will measure success. The FEI FI FO FUM program will support projects in these 3 areas:
  - *Team Retention*. Projects that focus on keeping or retaining students or mentors from underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations on your team.
  - *Team Recruitment*. Projects that make students or mentors from underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations aware of your team and inspire them to join your team.
  - *FRC Community Projects*. Projects that go beyond one team to support the participation and/or success of underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations throughout the FRC community in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.
- The proposal should have a specific and measurable goal with a maximum 12 month time frame.
- Grants are available between \$100 and \$1,500



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Application and review process:

To request funding or to seek other support, an eligible FRC team in Minnesota, North Dakota or South Dakota can complete a brief online form providing specific information about the project, the project goal, and measurements for success. Applicants can opt to request funding from a FEI FI FO FUM grant and/or request assistance from the FUM Diversity and Inclusion Committee. 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 2023 "Charged Up" competition season that is interested in making a positive impact by increasing the participation and/or 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. All eligible teams can apply for funding, but preference will be given to teams that have not previously been awarded a *FIRST* Equity and Access Grant or a FEI FI FO FUM Grant.
- Grant Value: Any amount between \$100 and \$1,500.
- 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 April 30, 2024. A summary report describing the project outcome, how the funds were spent, and any photos must be submitted to FUM by no later than May 31, 2024. 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 <https://redcap.link/fpl6omro>
- Application Due Dates: Applications can be submitted by any of the following due dates:
  - Friday, October 1, 2023
  - Friday, November 6, 2023

- Friday, December 1, 2023
- Friday, December 29, 2023
- Questions? Contact Yoji Shimizu at [yoji.shimizu@firstuppermidwest.org](mailto:yoji.shimizu@firstuppermidwest.org)