

2026 Open Educational Resources Michelson Spark Grant

Letter of Interest

What is the name of your organization?

Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3), fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), or government entity?

Note: If your educational institution is not a 501(c)(3), please apply through your institution's foundation.

Yes No

Please provide your Employer Identification Number EIN:

What is your name?

What is your title?

What is your email address?

What is the best phone number to reach you regarding this proposal?

What is your organization's website?

What city is your organization located in?

What state is your organization located in?

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The following questions allow us to learn about how your staff reflects the population you serve.

Is your organization led by someone who identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+, and/or a minority gender identity (e.g. cisgendered woman), non-binary (e.g. genderqueer, gender fluid, etc.), transgender, or is a member of an otherwise gender expansive identity?

Yes No Choose not to disclose

We welcome any comments or explanations about the demographic representation in your organization.



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Has your organization previously submitted a proposal for any previous Michelson Spark Grant round?

Yes No Unsure

Is your proposed project new or existing?

New Existing Existing with incremental impact

Input grant period in number of months:

Will your project impact California students?

Yes No

Were students involved in developing this proposal and/or will they be involved in the execution if funded?

Yes No

If yes, please expand. (150 words)



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Select which focus area your project would address. Select all that apply

- California-specific:
 - Support the implementation of California's historic investment in the Zero Textbook Cost degree program in the California Community College (CCC) system; This can include but is not limited to:
 - Focusing on operational or technological infrastructure projects, capacity building, or professional development that scale OER impact.
 - Projects that build public awareness and recognition of ZTC degrees' impacts on campus and within communities, especially projects that have an accelerated turnaround period.
 - Projects researching the impact of OER and ZTC programs, such as:
 - Efforts that analyze how OER and ZTC projects can be improved to support student success and completion
 - Efforts that research specific student success metrics, including but limited to degree completion, grades, retention rates, career attainment
 - Projects that build on ZTC degrees beyond the CCC system. Specifically, implementation plans for building on, adapting, and adopting ZTC degrees within the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems with a focus on degree pathways that serve a high volume of CCC transfer students.
 - Projects that mobilize student, faculty, and/or staff participation in passing OER and textbook affordability policies at the UC, CCC, and/or CSU systems. In addition, projects that activate or incorporate member-based organizations representing campus communities, including professional, civic, and labor organizations.



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Select which focus area your project would address. Select all that apply

- National inclusive of California projects:
 - Research and public education around student consumer protection in the textbook marketplace, including automatic textbook billing/equitable access programs, price transparency, and student data privacy with a focus on student experience. Efforts can include projects navigating the current political landscape. This can include but is not limited to:
 - Research on the prevalence and types of automatic textbook billing that is occurring within the three California public higher education systems
 - Policymakers at the system, state, and federal levels often have outdated understandings of the course materials landscape; public education is required to bring them up to speed on the current landscape and the impact it has on today's students
 - Research investigating the impacts of textbook affordability and access policies at the state and federal level, including OER funding, course marking, student consumer protection, price transparency, sustainability, and supporting educators adopting or creating OER. Across the country, states, systems of higher learning, and individual districts have worked to enact diverse policies to support student access to course materials. Understanding the impact of these policies will allow decision makers to better determine which policies are appropriate for their unique circumstances.

Please provide an overview of the project you are proposing, including the amount of funding requested (up to \$25,000) and usage of funds. Be sure to include which population(s) would be impacted by the grant. Please also include a proposed timeline for grant usage. (500 words max)



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Describe the three (3) metrics or Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) you are measuring as part of this project to gauge success of this program below.

Does your project have the potential to impact public policy? If so, how and elaborate on your plans to pursue that work? (200 words max)

Please upload any related documents you would like us to review.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us related to your proposal?



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How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

- Michelson 20MM Site Previous Familiarity with Michelson 20MM
 Email Outreach Direct Referral from a Michelson 20MM Partner
 Article/blog post Social Media Other

Did you meet with our staff prior to submitting this LOI? While not required, we encourage you to share your idea with our staff in advance to gain insights into whether or not your proposal aligns with our funding priorities and how to maximize alignment.

- Yes No

How many hours did this LOI take to prepare and submit?

Would you like to be added to the following mailing lists? Select all that apply.

- Michelson Spark Grants Open Educational Resources Initiative
 General Michelson 20MM Foundation

