

2026 Digital Equity 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?

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.

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

Yes

No

Unsure

Is your proposed project new or existing?

- New
- Existing
- Existing, with incremental impact

What is the duration of your project?

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)

Select which focus area your project would address. *Please select only one.*

Digital Discrimination – Internet Access as a Civil Right: Efforts that document and address the impact of different forms of digital discrimination on our most vulnerable communities. The projects should provide tools to combat digital discrimination and promote equitable access to broadband throughout California. We seek to grow awareness and uplift the needs of underserved communities that have been deliberately excluded from connectivity by systematic redlining and disinvestment. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Efforts that highlight disparities in broadband access and hold government and private institutions accountable to communities
- Storytelling, surveying, and testimonial-gathering that helps direct public and private investments to communities to address digital inequities
- Efforts that center community voices impacted by digital inequity through civic journalism, for community resilience and systems change
- Data and research that contributes to transparency around internet service providers (ISP) practices and services for use in collective community advocacy efforts

Broadband as a Utility – Policy Advocacy and Civic Engagement: Efforts that increase civic participation in digital equity policy-making and regulatory processes at the local, regional, or state-level with the goal of recognizing internet service as a public utility – and enabling universal access to high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband for all. This includes the education of state policy-makers on key digital equity issues.

- Projects may feature efforts focusing on education, capacity-building, and the equitable implementation of digital equity policy.
 - This may include policy efforts that improve internet affordability, network reliability, and access to broadband.
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Digital Equity and Economic Mobility: Efforts that address digital inequity and its impact on economic mobility for all Californians, are scalable across the state, and bridge the digital divide in at least one of the following issue areas:

- Higher Education (i.e.: Research on the impact of digital inequity on college students)
- Economic Opportunity (i.e.: Workforce development; equitable access to seeking, applying, and securing jobs)
- Access to Public Benefits (i.e.: Removing barriers to government service delivery)
- Housing and Renters’ Rights (i.e.: Access to fair and affordable housing, protection of renters’ rights to internet choice)

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)

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, elaborate on your plans to pursue that work. *(200 words max)*

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

In your online application, you will have the opportunity to upload related documents you'd like us to review.

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Michelson 20MM Website

Direct referral from a Michelson 20MM partner

Email outreach

Previous familiarity with Michelson 20MM

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. Meeting with our staff does not give a proposal a competitive advantage.

Yes

No

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

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

Michelson Spark Grants Updates

Student Basic Needs Initiative Updates

General Michelson 20MM Foundation Updates