**URBEST is excited to announce a request for Microgrant Applications to support initiatives led by graduate student and/or postdoctoral groups who are advocating for professional development and skill building opportunities in areas of science policy, industry, regulatory science, data science, higher education, communication, or outreach. Deadline for proposals are Friday, July 5, 2019.**

**Review Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of URBEST Leaders: Aslihan Petenkaya, Dina Markowitz, Joan Adamo, Katrina Korfmacher, Kyle Trenshaw, Paul Dunman, Sarah Peyre, and Scott Steele. In order to ensure fairness of the review process, proposal will be scored by three individuals based on our shared rubric. After initial scoring, the entire committee will convene to discuss all of the proposals and select the ones to be funded (up to three).

**Funding**

Applicants may apply for funding of $1000 - $3,000. Larger awards will only be granted for highly innovative and high-impact proposals to groups/teams that have demonstrated previous success in organizing similar efforts. Please justify your budget request accordingly. The proposed budget should be itemized and may be approved on a line-by-line basis. All actions and events encompassed by the proposal should be completed within 12 months of receiving funding. The grant period for this award will be **September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020**. Please keep this mind when suggesting the timeline of activities in your proposal. A written report and output of the proposal are expected at the end of the grant period. **Deadline for proposals is Friday, July 5, 2019.**Decisions for this round of funding will be released by **August 1, 2019**.

**Criteria for evaluation**

We are interested in supporting projects that would engage early career scientists in various areas that would provide professional development and skill building opportunities in areas of science policy, industry, regulatory science, data science, higher education, communication, outreach, etc. These areas are suggestions and the list is by no means exhaustive. The project can encompass a singular event or a series of events or activities. Some examples include workshops, a lecture series, career panel talks, networking events, and topical discussion sessions that involve various aspects of science and science-related sectors. You may work with Tracey Baas to partner with URBEST to bring in Career Story individuals. Projects that encourage hands-on experience as well as engagement with the community (UR or broader) and knowledge leaders in various sectors and capacities are highly encouraged.

Highly competitive proposals will address the following:

* Collaboration: does the proposal help network and initiate collaborative projects with other science groups/teams?
* Output: does the proposal generate resources that can be made publicly available through the URBEST, GEPA and iZones.
* Innovation: does the proposal explore a new idea or project that has not yet been attempted at UR?
* Public Engagement – does the proposal involve engagement with the community (UR or broader) or knowledge leaders in various sectors and capacities?

All proposals should include some form of output that can be shared with the broader community. These will be made available on the URBEST website at the conclusion of your grant period. Examples of appropriate outputs include:

* White paper report on a relevant science or science-related topic
* Memo on relevant science topic for legislative representative
* Course design/syllabus
* “How to” webinar/documentation
* Podcast
* Blog post
* Other creative ideas are encouraged!

Please note that grantees are encouraged to send event photographs, videos and other materials to URBEST. These might be posted on our website or social media platforms and/or shared with other grantees.

**Additional Points**

Grantees will be paired with a URBEST leader who has significant professional experience in an area relevant to their project. This mentor will be provided by URBEST. URBEST has additional AV resources that will be available to all grantees. You may consider the availability of these resources when developing your proposal. We can provide access to a Zoom account to live stream and record any of your events and can help equip you with a microphone for recording these events. Other resources can be discussed on a case by case basis to grantees.