One Sky Institute
Mini-Pilot Projects

A goal of the Institute is to build participants’ capacity to design broadening participation projects that are deeply grounded in the history and literature of the field, and that address gaps in the field in ways that can build knowledge and therefore be competitive with funding agencies.

A key idea is that leadership is often linked to being able to access resources, in ways that align with institutional priorities as well as broader directions in the field. To this end, part of Institute participation will involve the development of mini-pilot projects to be implemented back in your home institution. Participants will be teamed with mentors from the Institute faculty, who will provide feedback and advice on the design and sense-making aspects of the pilot-project.

+ **What is a mini-pilot project?**

Mini-pilot projects must:

+ Align with your institution’s strategic directions and immediate goals.
+ Build on the current knowledge base (in research, theory, and practice).
+ Test approaches that can advance knowledge in the field.

Mini-pilot projects could take many different forms. They could include, for example:

+ Small tweaks to current programs, with formative evaluation data collection to inform future development of the program.
+ Trying a new program activity or event aimed at broadening participation.
+ A staff development activity or survey that aims to deepen understanding of current or past approaches to broadening participation.

*$500 will be provided to cover any direct costs associated with the pilot.

+ **Why a letter of support from your supervisor?**

We ask that you submit a letter of support from your supervisor indicating:

+ Support for your time participating in Institute activities.
+ Support for your efforts to implement a pilot project in your organization.
+ A brief description of how they can see your participation advancing their institutional goals.

We also know that conditions can change on the ground, and a project idea that seems viable to you and your supervisor now may not be still viable 12 months later. We will work with you to take into account any changing conditions, should the implementation of your mini-pilot project at your organization prove to be difficult when the time comes.