**Funding Criteria**

**A. General Rules**

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

**B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis**

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

**C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:**

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

**Your Step 2 funding application should include this application, the supplemental budget form, and any letters of support.**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

**General & Contact Information**

**Project Name:** Root to Roof

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $10,000

**Project Topic Areas:**  Land & Water  Education  Energy

Transportation  Food & Waste

**Applicant Name:** Jesse Han

**Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization):** RSO

**Email Address:** jyhan2@illinos.edu

**Check one:**

This project is solely my own ***OR***

This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Root to Roof

**Project Team Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Jesse Han | Illinois School of Architecture | Jyhan2@illinois.edu |
| Abby Peterson | Illinois School of Architecture | Afpeter2@illinois.edu |
| Mila Lipinski | Illinois School of Architecture | Milakl2@illinois.edu |
| Jerry Rodriguez | Illinois School of Architecture | Jrodr208@illinois.edu |

**Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):**

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Lowell Miller and Dr. AnnaMarie Bliss  
Advisor’s Email Address: lrmiller@illinois.edu, arbliss2@illinois.edu

**Financial Contact *(Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)***

Contact Name: Kendra Shaffer

Unit/Department: CFOP Accounts/Business Office

Email Address: kshaffer@illinois.edu

**Project Information**

*Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.*

**Please provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:**

*You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.*

Root to Roof is a student-led community design-build center serving the greater Champaign area. Our mission is to empower students through hands-on learning and design thinking by working on real projects that serve community needs. Through previous SSC funding, we are able to use local and sustainably sourced wood to create customized and thoughtful projects for community organizations. We believe the impact is two-pronged: 1) Providing students with real projects will give tangible experience and encourage civic engagement 2) Leveraging the link to the University in order to build up the surrounding community.

**Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?**

*If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application.*

**We will be based out of the Architecture Annex which is affiliated with the Illinois School of Architecture. Our first project will be with DREAAM, a local nonprofit located within UniPlace Church at 403 S. Wright St. Champaign, IL 61820. We have permission from the founder of DREAAM and Pastor Kris of UniPlace Church.**

**Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.**

*Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.*

DREAAM (Driven to Reach Academic Achievement for Males): beneficiary + immediate funding

Illinois School of Architecture: beneficiary

Root to Roof (RSO): beneficiary

**How will this project involve and/or benefit students?**

*This includes both direct and indirect impact.*

**Root to Roof began as a student initiative and decisions are made primarily by the all student executive board. It has already given students leadership experience, exposure to project management, hands-on learning in the wood shop, and lessons on how to build sustainably with little to no waste. We currently have more than 20 members who are all students at UIUC and the majority of them majoring in architecture. We have had 8 members receive training at the wood shop to use the power tools and the remainder of students will be trained next week. Root to Roof does not function as a class with a lesson plan, but as problems and opportunities arise like they naturally do in real projects, we take the students along and they learn on the job. This organization provides experiences outside of the classroom for anyone to grow their carpentry skills and their experience in real projects.**

**How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?**

We currently have social media profiles on Instagram and LinkedIn as well as a website to professionally display and archive our work. We post up-to-date content on all of these platforms. We are also closely tied with the Illinois School of Architecture and will be featured in their publications. Our goal is to pursue projects that benefit the community around us. We aim to cultivate citizen architects that are civic-minded and have an open ear to the community. In this way, everyone in the organization plays a role in sourcing projects. We believe the diversity of our members and their connections will also help bring awareness to our mission as an organization.

# Financial Information

*In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee* [*website*](http://ssc.sustainability.illinois.edu/?page_id=2087)*. Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.*

**Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?**

Yes, through a different applicant, Lowell Miller. The funding was for Root to Roof as an entity, not the student organization. It has since become a student-led design-build organization.

**If this project is implemented, will you require any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?***Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.*

The funding we have requested will help keep the organization afloat for the next two years. The goal of this is for new board members of the next academic year to be able to source more funding beyond SSC on a project by project basis. As we pursue larger projects, part of our educational aspect will be exposing members to grant writing processes and we will apply for grants on a per project basis.

Our basic business model is that Root to Roof provides the wood and labor costs (in the form of volunteer/educational experience) for a project, subsidizing a large percentage of any built project. Clients will be responsible for any remaining costs such as hardware, paint, etc.

Our current project with DREAAM will not require further funding because the client has agreed to fund the remainder. The goal is to have at least one community project project per semester, depending on the scale. We won't always have the benefit of having a client with available funds to pay for materials and waiting on the client to purchase supplies for us delays our project timeline. SSC funding will provide project initiation costs so we can continue pursuing projects that benefit both the campus and the community. These funds will be reserved for projects that are self-initiated or when we have smaller clients without the proper capacity to help jump-start the project.

**Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?**

*Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.*

Client budget up to $10,000.

# Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

**How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus? If applicable, how does this project fit within any of the** [**Illinois Climate Action Plan**](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/) **(iCAP) goals?**

Our primary goal is education of UIUC students, but we aim to pursue projects that prioritize environmental sustainability on campus and in the community. Future projects we are considering are compost bins at campus buildings, community gardens in partnership with cultural houses or ACES, and a long-term goal of net-zero tiny homes. Our tactics are more ad-hoc and guerilla, but we hope to improve our community bit by bit, all while empowering students through a hands-on learning approach.

**How will you monitor and evaluate the project’s progress and environmental outcomes? What short-term and long-term environmental impacts do you expect?**

*Some examples include carbon emissions, water conservation, green behavior, and reduced landfill waste.*

**We aim to maintain a close relationship with our clients and to conduct post-occupancy studies on the spaces we design at 6 month intervals. By doing this, we can learn how our design is actually being used, we can investigate the wear and tear on the furniture pieces, and, most importantly, we teach the importance of post-occupancy studies to the students participating. Post-occupancy gives real data on how effective a project was and this is how we will evaluate each project's progress and environmental outcomes.**

**Our current project of renovating DREAAM's homework room is not directly solving a sustainability issue, but it is teaching about sustainability and low waste processes to UIUC students and the users of the space. We embrace all the imperfections in the wood we use and we believe that tells a story of how it's possible to repurpose something meant to become waste into something beautiful. This is what our short term impacts will look like: education and awareness.**

**Our long term goal as the organization grows is to pursue more directly sustainable projects, namely net-zero tiny homes. Illinois Solar Decathlon already pursues this endeavor with a larger footprint and as a competition, but we aim to use these net-zero tiny homes to provide housing solutions to people in need of shelter or in transitional seasons of life.**

**What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?**

**All of the members currently are enrolled in architecture and have goals of becoming architects that will shape our future built environments. Architects are leaders in the construction industry and have influential voices that can impact real change for sustainability. But this is not just an investment in our future landscapes. We are training architecture students to be leaders now: to identify problems and opportunities in the communities they are in and to be able to find solutions through design and innovative thinking. Root to Roof aims to inspire change at UIUC by giving students the tools and autonomy to improve their surroundings.**

**If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?**

**Root to Roof is at the intersection of environmental and social injustice. We are aware that sustainability is not accessible. Our projects are meant to prioritize underserved peoples and communities. Our first project is a great example of this. DREAAM primarily serves Black and Latinx boys in Champaign county. Their goal is college-readiness and building up strong, male leaders. Their current homework room is not conducive to learning or collaboration. Not only are we investing in the space so that it can be a place where the boys are excited to learn, but we are achieving this through sustainable practices such as recycling wood and minimizing our waste. We are driven by intersectional environmentalism and believe that the current sustainability movement cannot proceed without including marginalized voices. We are helping to empower these boys by investing in their academic enrichment and we are empowering the students in Root to Roof to become mindful architects that prioritize sustainability in their future practices.**