

Call for Proposals  
**Host a 2026 Public Management Research Regional Conference**



*The Public Management Research Association (PMRA)* invites proposals to host a **PMRA Regional Conference** to be held in calendar year **2026**.

PMRA Regional Conferences are intended to:

- Mentor and support new public management scholars, especially doctoral students and early-career researchers, and
- Further internationalize PMRA by strengthening public management research communities in different world regions.

PMRA anticipates making one award of up to US \$5,000 for a 2026 Regional Conference. PMRA funds are intended to supplement local resources (e.g., to support graduate/early-career participation, reduce registration fees, provide travel bursaries, or offset essential programmatic costs). The host institution bears responsibility for all contractual and financial obligations associated with the event. If the conference is cancelled, PMRA funds must be returned in full.

## Eligibility

### **Proposals are welcome from:**

- Universities, schools, or departments of public management, public administration, or public policy, and
- Public research institutes or centers with a strong focus on public management or closely related fields.

### **The proposed event must:**

1. Align with PMRA's mission and the purposes;
2. Be branded as a "PMRA Regional Conference" or a "PMRA Sponsored Conference";
3. Be held within calendar year 2026 (exact dates proposed by the host); and
4. Demonstrate institutional commitment, including appropriate facilities and administrative capacity to manage registration, logistics, and finances.

### **PMRA particularly encourages proposals that:**

- Serve regions or communities that have been under-represented at recent PMRCs; and
- Include strong mentoring components for doctoral students and early-career scholars.

## Each Proposal Should Include

1. **Name of host institution(s) and unit(s):** Brief description of the institution and the hosting department/school/center.
2. **Proposed conference coordinator(s):** Names, titles, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses.
3. **Proposed planning/organizing committee:** Names, titles, affiliations, and roles of members, including at least one person responsible for mentoring/doctoral activities.
4. **Institutional commitment:** A brief statement or letter of support from an appropriate Dean, Director, department chair, or equivalent, indicating institutional support (e.g., space, staff time, in-kind contributions).
5. **Proposed conference dates and location:** Proposed dates (within 2026) and city/campus location. Expected number of participants and anticipated composition (e.g., proportion of graduate students, junior faculty, practitioners).
6. **Conference concept and objectives:** A tentative theme/title (if any). A concise statement of objectives, explaining how the conference will mentor new public management scholars and further internationalize PMRA and connect regional networks to the broader PMRA community.
7. **Program design and mentoring components:** Tentative structure of the conference (e.g., one- or two-day event, plenaries, panels, roundtables). Description of mentoring and capacity-building activities for doctoral students and early-career scholars (e.g., doctoral workshops, methods sessions, meet-the-editors, professional development panels).
8. **Participants and recruitment strategy:** How participants will be recruited and selected (e.g., open call for papers, invitations through regional networks, collaboration with national or regional associations).
9. **Proposed use of PMRA funds and budget:** A simple budget showing expected revenues and expenses, including local/institutional contributions (cash and in-kind), planned registration fees (if any), and the requested PMRA contribution (up to US\$5,000) and how it will be used. A brief justification showing how PMRA funds will advance the core purposes of mentoring, internationalization, and inclusion.
10. **Conference facilities and accessibility:** Description of the conference facilities (meeting rooms, basic IT/AV support, Wi-Fi) and their capacity. A statement of accommodations for people with disabilities, such as physical access, assistive technologies, interpreters, signage, and any other relevant features.
11. **Accessibility, inclusion, and diversity:** A short statement describing how the conference will promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging (e.g., attention to under-represented scholars, first-generation academics, LMIC participants, and regional diversity).
12. **Assessment and reporting:** A brief plan for assessment (e.g., participant satisfaction survey or structured feedback). Commitment to submit a written report within one month after the conference summarizing outcomes relative to stated objectives, participation and mentoring outcomes, and a short account of how PMRA funds were used.
13. **Any unique factors:** Any unique features not listed above that may enhance the attractiveness of your proposal, such as geographical location, historical significance, proximity to related conferences or events, or opportunities for collaboration with regional associations or practitioner communities.

# Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a small committee consisting of the PMRA President, Past-President, and President-Elect, in line with PMRA's Regional Conference Policy.

**In making a funding decision, the committee will consider:**

1. Alignment with purpose and PMRA mission (focus on public management and/or related fields, mentoring new scholars, internationalizing PMRA, and strengthening regional research communities);
2. Quality and feasibility of the program design (agenda, mentoring components, realistic expectations about size and mix of participants);
3. Institutional commitment and organizational capacity (evidence of leadership support, experience and capacity of the coordinator and planning committee);
4. Budget realism and use of PMRA funds (clarity and appropriateness of the budget; targeting of funds to mentoring, internationalization, and inclusion; leveraging of local support);
5. Accessibility, inclusion, and diversity (concrete steps to support inclusive and accessible participation); and
6. Expected impact and sustainability (likely impact on local/regional networks and on the careers of new scholars, and potential for ongoing connections with PMRA activities).

# Timeline and Submission Instructions

- **Call released:** on or about **December 5, 2025**
- **Proposals due:** **January 15 (11:59 p.m. U.S. Central Time)**
- **Funding decision announced:** by **February 1**

Please submit your proposal **as a single PDF** file via our online system at [www.gopmra.org](http://www.gopmra.org)

For inquiries, please contact the PMRA Office at [contact@gopmra.org](mailto:contact@gopmra.org).