

FY26 Catalyst Grant Output & Outcome Guidance

Outputs are specific products created or services delivered during a project or upon its completion. There are often multiple outputs for catalyst grants, but **the main outputs should be informed by and/or intended for your partner.** Outputs may include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborative research questions or agendas, or scoping reports
- Academically sound, curated collections of data, images, objects, texts, and other knowledge sets and/or their analysis and synthesis
- Translational products (e.g., reports, white papers, guides, recommendations, factsheets, scenarios, tools)
- Events (e.g., conferences, workshops, trainings, cultural performances, art exhibits)
- Scholarly work (publications, presentations, creative work, etc.)

Outcomes are the expected impacts of the project process and outputs. They are important precursors to longer term impacts. It should be clear how the project activities and outputs lead to the outcomes.

Given the short duration of catalyst grants, we expect that projects will focus on achieving near-term outcomes. We encourage you to think beyond typical academic outcomes, and have provided relevant examples at multiple scales in the table below.

Individual Capacity	Personal and professional growth, including: skills (new or enhanced), awareness, or changes in mindset, which might enable changes in practice, approach, capacity, or behavior.
Team Capacity	Personal growth at the team level, including: increased and deepened collaborative relationships, more team members with collaborative science experience, specific analytical and facilitative skills, enhanced capacity for pursuing external funding, and/or a team that can secure additional funding by the end of the project's lifetime.
Network Development	Expanded relationships (internal or external to U-M) that make a difference in the work; this could be: new relationships, deepened existing ones, and/or increased connectivity among partners.
Contributions to the Field & Real-world Sustainability	Intellectual leadership, innovation, products, and insights that advance sustainability. May include: new or refined decision-making, management, strategies, or actions for partner(s), capacity building, and real-world application of research findings.