The Office of the Vice President for Research
Collaborative Research Advancement Program:
Pilot Grants

$25,000 award for eight teams ($200,000)
18-month duration

IMPORTANT DATES

12/09/20	RFP Released/Web Portal Open
02/03/21	Letter of Interest (LOI/Concept Paper) Due
02/24/21	Finalist Notification
03/18/21	Full Proposal Due (Finalist Only)
03/29/21	Pitch Event
04/22/21	Awardees Announced
06/01/21	Earliest Program Start Date

Consistent with Office of Research goals to spur interdisciplinary research and establish new partnerships within and beyond the institution, the *Collaborative Research Advancement Program: Pilot Grants* is meant to encourage both internal and external collaboration; enable new teams and/or new lines of research; and stimulate research that embraces intellectual diversity and addresses issues of increasing societal significance.

This program has been modified and will now follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a 3-page concept paper, a bibliography, and biographical sketch/s. Up to fifteen finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and agree to a 10-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities. Pitch event date/time: TBA. This program is open to all UC faculty. Application budget limit: $25,000.

The goals of the *Collaborative Research Advancement: Pilot Grants Program* are to 1) Advance collaborative, interdisciplinary research, scholarships, and creative activities that are inclusive, impactful, and innovative; 2) Drive excellence in all areas of research, scholarship and creative endeavors; and 3) Advance high- potential, high-impact activities to the next level.

The expected outcomes for this program are to: 1) Support teams for achievement of greater success and prominence; 2) Advance high-potential, team research and creative activities in emergent areas; and 3) Increase teams' competitiveness and capacity for major extramural awards and funding.

**As part of the RFP and application, applicants are asked to consider, articulate and ultimately measure how the project positively benefits society. As high-level frames of reference, the Office of Research refers applicants to two impact frameworks:

1. The Arts & Social Impact Explorer
2. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

Faculty have found the two impact frameworks helpful to refer to when crafting the impact framework for their own work and proposals. Should applicants want help developing the impact framework for their research project, they should contact the program officer for *The Collaborative Research Advancement Program: Pilot Grants* via research@uc.edu

Eligibility & expectations:

- Eligible corresponding applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment;
- Faculty holding a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA and Shriners) are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be the corresponding applicant;
- External collaborators are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be the corresponding applicant;
- Any corresponding applicant who received funding from the Office of Research in the past IS eligible to submit a proposal to this program and the application will be considered **IF:** 1) The applicant has met ALL requirements of former awards within budget and timeframe; 2) The applicant can provide data/evidence that the previously funded project was successful and impactful; 3) Since their most recent internal award (from the Office of Research), the applicant has served as a reviewer for Office of Research or URC programs.

Concept/White Paper Application Materials

Applications will be submitted online via Wisehive, our internal program software. When the application is available, the link will be posted on https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview. The corresponding applicant will be responsible for creating the application profile and documentation within Wisehive. All corresponding applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, M-number, college, department/unit, and proposal title within the Wisehive application portal prior to uploading the required pdf files.

All documents must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout. All materials below must be submitted as separate PDF files.

1. Concept/White Paper Contents (3-page maximum).
   The concept/white paper should contain the following information *in the order listed below*. *Word limitations for each section are merely provided as suggestions*. Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included.
   - Problem Statement and Significance (200 words)
   - Background including Prior Approaches/Relevant Literature (200 words)
   - Project Description/Proposed Approach (400 words)

- Anticipated Results/Outcomes (200 words)
- Broader Impacts (200 words)
- Project Sustainability/Follow-on Funding (150 words)

2. Bibliography/References Cited. Full reference details for all citations in concept/white paper (1 page maximum)
3. Biographical Sketch/s (3 page maximum per PI/co-PI/key personnel). This document should be submitted as a single pdf, with page limitations per individual. Teams should consider key personnel those individuals who have committed effort to this project, which will be documented at the finalist phase, and who are necessary to the success of the proposed project.

Concept/White Paper Review Criteria:

o Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed;
o Accurate presentation of the state of the field/current approaches, methods or techniques being used;
o Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach;
o Project outcomes;
o Assessment measures;
o Broader impacts (e.g., efforts to broaden participation; potential to place UC/college/unit as leader in field; alignment with UC, local or state priorities);
o Alignment with UNSDGs or Arts & Social Impact Explorer Framework(s);
o Appropriateness of plan to obtain additional/follow-on external support for project;
o Suitability of the applicant to undertake and complete the proposed project; and
o Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

Associate Vice President for Research, Jennifer Krivickas, will be hosting a webinar to discuss the opportunity, RFP details (e.g., application materials, LOI components and review criteria) and answering applicant questions on **December 11, 2020 at 12:00 pm (noon)**. Interested applicants to this program are encouraged, but not required, to attend this webinar. Registration details for this webinar can be found at https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

Finalist Selection & Review Process: Each concept/white paper will be reviewed by a team of UC faculty reviewers. The review process will be managed such that no conflict of interest issues arise. Up to 15 finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

QUESTIONS? research@uc.edu

*Accelerating research at **UC**incinnati and economic growth in our region.*