

CAHNR Exploratory Research Grant

This new competitive grant program seeks research proposals that are highly transformative and address challenges in one or more of the CAHNR's strategic priorities. The proposals must address "high risk-high impact" research that will lead to a substantial change in the priority areas. The proposals must focus on new and emerging innovative ideas that radically enhance understanding of an existing concept; application of new knowledge or approaches; and/or new tools required that result in a paradigm shift in the field.

In FY 2023, the college anticipates funding approximately three to five proposals through a competitive process. Continuation of this grant program in future years will depend on the availability of funds. Each proposal will be funded not to exceed \$20,000 with a duration of one year. Proposals cannot be renewed or extended beyond one year. Applicants can request funding for supporting research personnel directly working on the project and covering the cost of materials and supplies for conducting research. Funds can be used to support only graduate students who have matriculated as majors in CAHNR Departments. Funds cannot be used to support faculty salary, travel, publications, or purchasing equipment.

Proposal Guidelines:

1. As a first step, a two-page letter of intent summarizing the proposal must be submitted to the CAHNR Administrative Council. The first page of letter of intent (cover page) should contain the project title, the name, professional title, department affiliation and email address of the Principal Investigator and all collaborating investigators. The second page of the letter of intent must be a summary (12 font size, single/double spaced, 1 inch margin top, bottom, right and left) of the proposed project containing a clearly articulated and compelling justification for the research. The summary should explain why the proposed research is transformative and high-risk, and highlight the significance of the research and its potential impact on the field. Upon review of the letter of intent by the Administrative Council, the PI will be invited to meet with the council, provide additional details regarding the project, and answer any questions. Within two weeks of the meeting with the Administrative Council, the PI will be notified whether the project is accepted for a full proposal submission. No detailed review or comments regarding the letter of intent will be provided regardless of the acceptance or rejection of the letter of intent for a full proposal submission. A faculty member can submit only one letter of intent.
2. For projects invited for a full proposal submission, the proposal must not exceed four pages. The first page of the full proposal (cover page) should contain the project title, the name, professional title, department affiliation and email address of the Principal Investigator and all collaborating investigators. The cover page should be followed by a three-page project narrative (double-spaced, 12 font size, 1 inch margin) and contain brief sections on literature review, rationale, proposed approach and methods, data analysis, anticipated results, and next steps and plans for seeking additional funding, including the targeted extramural grant program and timeline for submission. The

narrative should clearly indicate how the proposed research is unique and how it addresses challenges that have never been tackled before. It should also highlight the potential for major advancement in the scientific area addressed in the proposal. An additional one page (beyond the 3-page project narrative) for including bibliography or cited references is permitted, if necessary.

3. For full proposal submission, a biographical sketch for each investigator, limited to two pages in length, including a list of no more than five significant publications pertaining to the proposed research should be submitted. Each proposal should also include a list of Current and Pending Support. Moreover, evidence of collaboration or support from collaborators providing services or materials critical to the proposed project should be provided. For all collaborators playing an active role in the project, submit a biographical sketch, and a list of current and pending support.

Review:

The proposal will be reviewed by the CAHNR Administrative Council. The assistance of ad hoc reviewers or external experts to review the proposals will be sought, if needed. The review criteria will include the scientific merit of the proposed research, appropriateness of the proposed research for developing proof of concept of new and untested ideas, including high-risk research that leads to a substantial change in the field, the applicant's previous experience and scholarship along with the proposed activities, and relevance of the project to CAHNR strategic priorities.

Expectations:

In the following year of funding, each awardee must submit a proposal for extramural funding, preferably to NSF's (National Science Foundation) Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) or other similar programs. Six months after project initiation, the awardee must meet with the CAHNR Administrative Council and provide an update on the project progress and plans for seeking extramural funding.

Deadline for submitting letter of intent:

A pdf file of the letter of intent must be submitted to Lynn.Grabowski@uconn.edu by 5 PM on January 25, 2023.