Interdisciplinary Initiatives Seed Grants Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity – Revised 03/07/24

Purpose: The Interdisciplinary Initiatives Seed Grants Program supports interdisciplinary research teams among Kennesaw State University (KSU)'s researchers in all areas of research, scholarship and creative activity. This one-year support is given for collaborative proposals with the anticipation of a major grant submission upon its conclusion (i.e., >$100,000 total direct costs). Seed funding allows KSU's researchers to demonstrate the feasibility of their idea and create pilot data to be more competitive for extramural funding.

Available Funds: A total of $200,000 annual funds will be invested by the Office of Research. Individual applications should not exceed $10,000.

Eligibility: Any collaborative team with at least two (2) researchers from different disciplines are encouraged to apply. At least two (2) Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) must be full-time faculty at KSU preferably from different colleges. Each applicant can only receive one award per year. Preference will be given to teams who…
1. Fit into one of the emerging interdisciplinary research clusters (Applied Technology, Sustainable Communities, One Health, or Innovative Creativity), and/or
2. Have or are pursuing space in the new Marietta Interdisciplinary Research building (starting in 2025).

Deliverables: By accepting the award, researchers are committing to 1) staying at KSU for the duration of the award year, 2) submitting a grant application with total direct costs of more than $100,000 within one year following this seed funding, and 3) serving as an internal reviewer in future cycles. Other research/scholarship/creative activity outcomes will be considered with justification (i.e., make a case for how this work can be used to significantly enhance KSU's research profile).

Procedure: Applications are accepted two (2) times per year on the second Tuesday of April and September at 5:00 PM ET.

Phase 1 – The initiating PI will submit the following through InfoReady
- 12-slide presentation of their idea, using the provided template as a guide
- 1-4 page Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that highlight questions you anticipate from reviewers and/or the greater public, including a timeline (template provided)
- Biosketches of all senior personnel, including external partners (5-page max, preferably generated using SciENcv)
- Budget with 1-2 page Justification
- List of any current and pending funding within the past three years, including other internal funding
- Approval of submission by department chair and dean of each co-PI

Phase 2 – The PIs will deliver their 10-min pitch to a panel of internal reviewers consisting of staff within the Office of Research and other internal individuals with relevant background knowledge (e.g., associate deans of research, other faculty with overlapping expertise, etc.). There will be a 15 min Q&A immediately following the presentation. PIs are strongly encouraged to attend in person, but accommodations for virtual attendance will be made.

Information about Allowable Costs: All spending plans and orders are due by January 15 each year. Travel must be encumbered by March 1 and expended by April 30. Any amount that exceeds the approved funding will not be covered by the Office of Research unless prior approval is received. If faculty incurs expenses that exceed their funding, they will be responsible for covering these costs.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. All requests are subject to department approval.

Allowable	Prohibited
✓ Supplies related to research [1]	✗ Classroom Supplies
✓ Hardware and software [2]	✗ Copy editing and grant writing
✓ Research materials (books, journal subscription, etc.)	✗ Furniture and furnishings (e.g., Varidesk, office chairs, décor)
✓ Equipment used for research	✗ Research team perks
✓ Professional membership [3]	✗ Gifts
✓ Conference registration	✗ Teaching or curriculum development
✓ Travel for research, presentations, special training, workshops, or data collection [4]	✗ Personal electronics not directly related to research activities (Air-Pods, etc.)
✓ Publications	✗ Predatory journal publications
✓ Consulting [5]	✗ Club membership
✓ Participation incentives for research subjects [6]	✗ Personalized items
✓ Undergraduate and graduate student researcher stipends	
✓ Summer salary and course release	

[1]Supply requests should be directly related to the research project.
[2]Faculty are responsible for obtaining UITS approvals. All such assets are owned and tagged by the university.
[3]Faculty must provide an approved membership form.
[4]Registration and travel for predatory conferences not allowed; students have more restricted allowable expenses
[5]No adjunct faculty can be paid as consultants and spending must comply with BOR, USG, and KSU policy.
[6]Must follow Fiscal Compliance and IRB guidelines.

1. **Who is your audience [i.e., provide a link to the specific solicitation your proposal will target AND identify the larger community that has the problem needing to be solved]?**

2. **How will your project make the community's life significantly better?**

3. **Why is this an urgent problem that needs to be solved right now?**

4. **What might disappoint the community about your project?**

5. **How will the community discover or find about your project/solution?**

6. **How will you measure success?**

7. **How does this integrate with existing projects?**

8. **What is your rollout plan for real-life implementation?**

9. **What sparks the most intense debate about your project?**

10. **What are the key milestones in your roadmap:** *(modify template below as appropriate)*

Pilot Project and Grant-writing Objectives	Pilot Project Year				Proposal Submission Year			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
First Major Project Objective								
- *Supporting Task 1*								
- *Supporting Task 2*								
Second Major Project Objective								
- *Supporting Task 1*								
- *Supporting Task 2*								
First Major Writing Objective								
- *Supporting Task 1*								
- *Supporting Task 2*								

<p style="text-align:center">Interdisciplinary Initiatives Seed Grants Program</p>
<p style="text-align:center">*Budget and Budget Justification Template (1-2 pages)*</p>

Budgets are anticipated to reflect the needed work to prepare a competitive proposal (e.g., travel costs to interact with community partners, materials and supplies for lab data, fee-for-service to have an app developed). Generally, summer salary for one PI is not considered a compelling use of this seed funding.

Category*	Description of Expense	Estimated Cost
	Total Cost (≤ $10,000)	

*Categories may include Personnel (faculty, students, staff), Participant Support Costs, Equipment (single items costing > $5,000), Materials and Supplies, Publication Costs, Consultant Services, Travel, or Other Costs.

Explain how the expenses noted in the table above are crucial to creating a competitive proposal for submission to a specific solicitation within one year from the end of the pilot project.