In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Clemson University has collected large numbers of testing samples for the purpose of COVID diagnosis and surveillance. Clemson investigators are invited to build upon this ongoing data collection (i.e. survey research, lab analysis) or to identify new areas of investigation for existing data. The Clemson University School of Health Research, with financial support from the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences (CBSHS) and the College of Engineering, Computing, and Applied Science (CECAS) and the Office of the VPR, announces a Call for Research Seed Grant applications supporting research that leverages Clemson University’s unique COVID testing resources. These projects are intended to have a rapid start in order to maximize testing schedules.

**Purpose and Criteria**

**Overview:** The Research Seed Grant initiative facilitates collaborative pilot research and scholarly activities supporting Clemson University’s health research goals. Research Seed Grant recipients are required to disseminate their work locally, regionally, and/or nationally. Investigative teams are also required to share data resulting from the Seed Grant project without restriction among all interested Clemson faculty.

**Funding:** Seed Grant funding will leverage Clemson’s COVID testing resources and initiatives. Project budgets should not exceed $25,000.

**Eligibility:** Applications are accepted from any Clemson faculty investigator. Applications are encouraged to include investigative partnership between at least two colleges. Projects should endeavor to combine disciplines (e.g. behavioral sciences with engineering and lab sciences).

**Applicant Agreement:**
Principal Investigators accepting Research Seed Grant agree to the following:

- Secure Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or exemption) prior to receipt of any award dollars, or the initiation of project-related work.

- Spend award dollars only on the proposed research-related activities specified in the budget.

- Complete a status report at 6 months and then submit final report within 30 days of project end date.

- Collaborate with other Clemson investigators to build upon Clemson’s COVID testing research resources

- Submit a research proposal with at least $100,000 budget to an external agency to build upon this seed project. The external proposal should also include significant faculty collaboration between colleges.
**Period of Support:** The committee will award support for a maximum of 12 months.

**Allowable Expenditures:** Allowable expenditures include participant incentives, equipment, project supplies, pilot data collection, research-related travel (up to 10% of total budget), publication fees, contract and user fees. Applicants must fully justify requests for electronic equipment and travel to conferences and presentations. This award does not support indirect costs or full-time faculty salary, however, applicants may use funds for consultants, research staff, post-doctoral fellow or other research assistant support (e.g. undergraduate students and graduate students). The proposed budget should not include: items departments typically support for active researchers, travel unrelated to project execution, or request to bridge a funding gap between grants.

**Selection Process:**
The Seed Grant applications undergo an evaluation based upon a quad chart outlining the project (see next section for detail) and a budget justification (one page maximum).

**Application Evaluation:**
The Committee will review and assess applications according to the thoroughness of the completed quad chart. This includes assessing the project’s alignment with Clemson priorities, authenticity and strength of the Co-Investigators collaboration, and the project feasibility and requisite resource availability.

Scoring Criteria for Full Applications: Projects will be evaluated in the following categories:

- **Significance:** Does the project address knowledge or implementation gap within the field and align with Clemson mission to improve health through evidence?

- **Innovation:** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research by utilizing novel COVID-related theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions?

- **Approach and Feasibility:** Are the overall strategy, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?

- **Investigators:** Does the investigative team have the requisite background, training, and relationship and access to advance project the goals? Does the team have depth of collaborative experience or potential to advance the project?

**Application Components**
A responsive application includes a completed quad chart and brief budget. Each box should include all the information solicited.

Applications are due by January 15, 2020 at 5:00 pm (EST), and will be reviewed on a rolling basis as received. Applications should be submitted via pre-award offices in the Colleges.