



Strategic University Challenge for Competitive Excellence and  
Expertise in Discovery and Scholarship  
*[CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS]*  
2023-2024 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## SUMMARY

*CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS (CU SUCCEEDS)* is a competitive internal funding initiative that positions faculty to succeed at various stages of the research process. *CU SUCCEEDS* provides funding across four programs to support leading-edge research and scholarship that capitalize on the existing intellectual capital at Clemson University. This initiative consists of four programs: (1) Project Initiation/Seed Funding, (2) Collaborate, (3) Project Completion, and (4) Fast Track.

### **PROGRAM 1: PROJECT INITIATION/SEED FUNDING**

Program 1 awards provide seed funding for the initiation of research activities. Final deliverables must include a successfully submitted proposal to an external funding agency.

**Funding amount:** Up to \$10,000  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM  
**Funding period:** 1 year; March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025

*Allowable activities include:*

- Collecting baseline or pilot data that will enhance the preparation and submission of a future external funding proposal or research project
- Implementing past research to pursue a new funding opportunity
- Developing research partnerships

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### **PROGRAM 2: COLLABORATE**

Program 2 awards provide funding for multidisciplinary teams to pursue significant external research funding of **at least \$1.5 million** in direct costs over three or more years or center-type proposals. Program 2 awards will allow teams to position themselves to submit highly competitive proposals. Proposals with participation from across Clemson University, including Innovation Campuses, Research and Education Centers, and Clemson Centers and Institutes, are highly encouraged. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission. Final deliverables must include submission of external research proposal(s) requesting significant funding.

**Funding amount:** Up to \$35,000  
**Deadline:** January 31, 2024 at 4:30 PM  
**Funding period:** 1 year; March 18, 2024 to March 17, 2025

*Activities must include:*

- Preparation and submission of external research proposal(s) requesting significant funding (at least \$1.5 million in direct costs over three or more years or center-type proposals)

- Collaboration with multiple faculty with primary appointments from at least three different departments across at least two colleges.
    - Secondary/joint appointments will **not** be considered as an indicator of someone being from a different department or college. Only the primary appointment will be considered.
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### **PROGRAM 3: PROJECT COMPLETION**

Program 3 awards provide funding to support the completion of research and/or scholarly activities with a targeted product. A final deliverable can include a manuscript, book, piece of art, or other product that is appropriate to the faculty member's field of scholarship or a proposal resubmitted to an external funding agency (federal, state, or foundation).

**Funding amount:** Up to \$5,000  
**Deadline:** February 28, 2024  
**Funding period:** 1 year; April 15, 2024 to April 14, 2025

*Activities can include:*

- Finalizing peer-reviewed publications
  - Scholarly books or book chapters
  - Showing or exhibition, as in the case with the visual and performing arts
  - Revising and resubmitting external grant proposals
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### **PROGRAM 4: FAST TRACK**

Program 4 awards provide funding for faculty to respond to short-notice external funding opportunities. A short-notice external funding opportunity is one for which the submission deadline is within two months of the original RFP/solicitation publication date. Awardees will be notified of funding within five business days of proposal submission.

**Funding amount:** Up to \$5,000  
**Deadline:** Proposals accepted on a rolling basis  
**Funding period:** 2 months

*Activities can include:*

- Obtaining additional pilot data and/or resources to strengthen the external grant proposal submission.
- Hiring hourly paid students and/or staff to assist with the external grant proposal preparation.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

Tenured or tenure-track faculty and research faculty are eligible to serve as PIs on proposals. Postdocs, staff, and emeritus, adjunct, or visiting faculty are not eligible to serve as PIs on proposals but may be included in research teams.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

An individual can apply as PI or Co-PI on one *CU SUCCEEDS* proposal per program each year. A proposal must have a single PI. Other team members can be listed as Co-PI, Co-I, Collaborator, etc.

## PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS FOR ALL PROGRAMS

**Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and proposal instructions will be returned without review.**

All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must have completed InfoEd routing and be submitted to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) by **4:30 p.m. on the above listed deadlines**. *PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission.* To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least **two** business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

Format all documents using 12-point Times New Roman Font (or similar), one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size. Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:

### A. Cover Sheet Template [1 page - attached below]

The following items must be included:

- A clear, concise project title beginning with **CU SUCCEEDS Program #: Project Title**
- The names and college/departmental/school affiliations of the PI, co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Total budget amount
- An indication of whether the PI has been a previous recipient of R-Initiative funding; if yes, include the year of funding and the initiative (e.g., 2020 CU Fellows)
- Anticipated deliverables

### B. Abstract [1 page]

### C. Proposal

*For Program 1 & 3 applications:*

#### 1. Project Description [3 pages max, excluding references]

Please use the following headings:

- Specific Aims
- Background and Significance
  - Describe the background and significance of the project.
- Potential Impact of the Proposed Work:
  - Summarize how this project supports Clemson's strategic priorities; explain how the project relates to the PI's larger research and scholarship endeavors

and how it will further enhance the mission and reputation of Clemson University.

- Project Methodology
- Expected Results
- Timetable
- Deliverable(s)
- References/ Works Cited (**not included in the page limit**)

**2. Description of Start-Up Packages and Current/Pending Support [1 page]**

PIs who are new faculty (in the first three years of employment at Clemson) should provide start-up package details, including a description of total amount, duration, current balance, number of graduate assistantship(s), travel funds, supplies, equipment, and other/discretionary funds provided as part of the hiring agreement. If the PI does not have start-up funds, please state so.

Provide a list of current and pending internal and external funding to include project title, funding agency, project duration, total direct costs, total indirect costs, total amount of the award, and role in project.

*For Program 2 applications:*

**1. Technical Narrative and Novelty [3 pages max, excluding references]**

In the technical narrative, describe:

- Project objectives and specific aims
- Project significance
- Project innovativeness and originality
- Rationale for the project's multi-disciplinary team and the history (if any) of their collaboration
- Need for CU SUCCEEDS funding to ensure success of the targeted proposal submission(s).

**2. Targeted Extramural Proposal Submission Plans [1 page]**

Provide information about the targeted extramural funding competition(s) for the planned proposal, including dates for planned submission(s), funding opportunity titles and numbers as well as URLs for the funding opportunities, and any other relevant information.

If the targeted external competition requires an internal or external pre-selection (e.g., pre-proposal competition by the funding agency, limited submission in Clemson) in order to submit a full proposal, this section should include alternative funding targets should the team not be selected for full proposal submission.

If the full proposal has previously been submitted for external support, a copy of the panel summary and reviews from the agency to which it was submitted must be included with the application as a supplemental document. Describe how the comments from the previous review will be addressed.

*For Program 4 applications:*

**1. Explanation of Targeted Extramural Proposal Submission Plans [2 pages max]**

Provide information about:

- The targeted extramural funding competition for the planned proposal, including the sponsor's name, program name, RFP/solicitation publication date and proposal deadline, and a link to the RFP/solicitation.
- Proposal objectives and aims
- Use of funds and how it will enhance the external proposal submission.

**D. Budget and Budget Justification [2 pages]**

Provide a budget and budget justification in NSF or NIH format for all items requested. If cost share is included, provide a clear breakdown of the cost-share amounts and sources (chart string account numbers).

**E. SciENCv Curriculum Vitae**

Submit a SciENCv Biosketch/CV for each PI, Co-PI(s), collaborators, and key personnel.

**F. [OPTIONAL] Letters of Support**

Letters of support from collaborators and outside consultants may be included. LOS from internal teammates do **not** need to be included.

**G. [OPTIONAL] Documentation of Cost Share**

Provide commitment emails or letters for the cost-share funds, if included. Please specify the specific cost-share source/chart string in the budget justification. Cost-share fund sources not allowable are Fund 18, Fund 20, Fund 22, and Fund 25. The cost-share funds must be available during the project period.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION**

Allowable costs include:

- Course release (PI only)
- Equipment/facility access for data collection for the proposal
- Travel to engage program managers, meet with collaborators for proposal planning, or conduct field work
- Organizing workshops or similar activities for the proposal team
- Limited and well-justified specialty analyses or testing by external parties for the proposal
- Materials/supplies for data collection for the proposal
- Incentives for participants
- Specialty software not available at the University
- Transcription expenses
- Proposal development staff/consultant/firm
- Hourly undergraduate student, graduate student, and postdoc stipends (only for well-justified, specific, project-related activities that clearly define how the student or postdoc will fit into the multidisciplinary team, what the student or postdoc will be expected to achieve, how this work is necessary for the success of the eventual external submission, and why this work cannot be completed without the requested student or postdoc funding. Also, explain the current funding source(s) of the students or postdoc, if applicable).

Unallowable costs include:

- Faculty salary, except PI course release
- Funding requests for graduate research assistants (GRAD)
- Attending, organizing, hosting, and/or participating in conferences as the sole purpose
- Office furniture or equipment
- Office supplies
- Computers or printers
- Laboratory renovations or upgrades
- Tuition remission (GAD)
- Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs

Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds, if applicable, and to the Division of Research. In the event the PI leaves the University during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.

## REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks of proposal submission for Programs 1–3. Program 4 decisions will be announced within five business days of submission.

A review committee, including external reviewers if needed, will evaluate the proposals. The proposal must be written in a clear, concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

### ***Evaluation Criteria:***

#### ***For Program 1 & 3 applications:***

- Feasibility of the proposed project and its significance to the discipline
- Potential for significant impact in keeping with Clemson’s strategic priorities
- Appropriate timeline
- Clear, concise project methodology
- Current funding for proposed project
- Current faculty resources and/or start-up packages

#### ***For Program 2 applications:***

- Clear identification of targeted solicitation(s) for submission and alternative submission opportunities if the targeted RFP is not issued or the proposal is not selected for funding
- Novelty of proposed topic and ideas for the targeted solicitation
- Extent of multidisciplinary and cross-college collaboration
- Potential for collaborations with innovation campuses, research and education centers, and University research centers and institutes
- Clear path to additional funding from external sources

#### ***For Program 4 applications:***

- Urgency and necessity of funding
- Feasibility of the proposed project and its significance to the discipline
- Appropriate timeline
- Potential for significant impact in keeping with Clemson’s strategic priorities

## AWARD INFORMATION

Funds will be available to PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/school/college to transfer the cost-share funds (if applicable) to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once cost-share funds (if applicable) are transferred. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to the original source, either via those providing cost-share funds or the Division of Research.

Expenditure of these funds must follow state procurement guidelines. State money cannot be used for personal gain (i.e., books, recordings [CDs, DVDs, etc.]) by which the author receives ANY portion of funds directly.

All applications selected for an award must receive the required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

Awardees will be called upon to serve as relevant reviewers for future years' competitions.

All income received from sales is considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the F and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF). Guidelines surrounding royalties are found in the Clemson University Intellectual Property Policy and should be followed accordingly.

No-cost extensions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances.

## DELIVERABLES & FINAL REPORT

A final report must be submitted via the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) within one year of the funding end date. The final report will be assigned to PIs via InfoReady near the end of the award period. A copy of all deliverables will be requested with the final report.

Teams who fail to submit their final reports will be ineligible for future R-Initiative funding.

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge that the project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiatives.

## QUESTIONS

Questions about the R-Initiatives may be directed to [rifunds@clemson.edu](mailto:rifunds@clemson.edu).



# Cover Sheet

## *R-Initiative Funding Opportunities*

**R-Initiative Type:**

**Proposal Title:**  
(ex: CU \_\_\_:)

### **PI Information**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Department</b>
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### **Co-PI/Senior Personnel/Collaborator Information**

*(Additional collaborators can be listed on a separate page in the application.)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Department</b>
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**Center and Institute Affiliations:**

**Total Budget:**

**Are you a recipient of prior R-Initiative funding? If yes, please specify and include the dates of funding.**

**Anticipated  
Deliverables:**