



**CLEMSON STRATEGIC UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE FOR COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE
AND
EXPERTISE IN DISCOVERY AND SCHOLARSHIP
[CU SUCCEEDS]
Program 2: Collaborate
2024–2025 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

SUMMARY

The **Clemson Strategic University Challenge for Competitive Excellence and Expertise in Discovery and Scholarship (CU SUCCEEDS)** positions faculty to succeed at various stages of the research process. It comprises four programs that support cutting-edge research and scholarship, building on the existing intellectual capital at Clemson University.

Program 2 provides funding for multidisciplinary teams to develop and submit highly competitive proposals for external research funding of **at least \$1.5 million** in direct costs over three or more years or center-type proposals. Proposals with participation from across Clemson University, including Innovation Campuses, Research and Education Centers, Clemson centers and institutes, and Extension are highly encouraged. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission. Deliverables must include submission of an external research proposal with a budget of at least \$1.5 million in direct costs.

Funding amount: Up to \$35,000
Deadline: March 5, 2025 at 4:30 PM
Funding period: One year: April 16, 2025 to April 15, 2026

Allowable Activities

Collaboration with multiple faculty with primary appointments in three or more departments across two or more colleges. Secondary/joint appointments will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

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 may 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 may be listed as Co-PI, Co-I, Collaborator, etc.



BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Allowable Costs

- Course release (PI only)
- Equipment/facility access for data collection
- Travel to engage program managers at agencies, 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
- Materials/supplies for data collection
- Incentives for participants
- Specialty software not available at Clemson
- Transcription expenses
- Securing the services of proposal development staff/consultants/firms
- Hourly undergraduate student, graduate student, and postdoc stipends for well-justified, specific, project-related activities

Unallowable Costs

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

Cost Share

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.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

InfoEd Routing

The Clemson University Office of Sponsored Programs uses InfoEd to route and monitor faculty research funding requests. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must complete InfoEd routing. PIs must coordinate with their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. PIs are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline to ensure that electronic signatures are received on time. Only those proposals that have completed the InfoEd routing process and are marked as "R-Initiative Applied" by the deadline will be reviewed.



InfoReady Submission

PIs must submit their applications to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2025.

Proposals that do not comply with guidelines will be returned without review.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Cover Sheet Information

Enter the following information into the InfoReady text fields:

- Project title beginning with **CU SUCCEEDS Program 2: [Proposal Title]**
- Name and college/department/school affiliations of the PI, co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Name and email address of departmental fiscal officer
- Total Division of Research (DoR) budget request amount
- Total cost share
- Total overall budget amount (DoR + cost share)
- Prior R-Initiative funding. If the PI has prior R-I funding awards, provide the year of funding and the initiative (e.g., 2020 CU Fellows), and the associated proposal processing number (PPN; found in InfoEd)
- Anticipated deliverables

Proposal

Submit the proposal in InfoReady as a single PDF using 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8½ x 11-inch paper size. The PDF should include the following components:

A. Project Description [4 pages, excluding references; please use the headings below]

- **Extramural Proposal Submission Plans.** Provide targeted external funding opportunity title, number, URL, and planned submission date. If the targeted external funding opportunity requires an internal or external pre-selection (e.g., pre-proposal competition by the funding agency, limited submission through Clemson) in order to submit a full proposal, include alternative funding opportunities the team will target should the initial proposal not be selected for full proposal submission.
- **Summary of Planned Extramural Proposal.** Include goals and objectives, significance, and innovativeness.
- **Rationale for the Project's Multidisciplinary Team**
- **Need for CU SUCCEEDS Funding.** Explain why Program 2 funds are necessary to ensure successful proposal submission.
- **References/Works Cited**



B. Budget and Budget Justification [2 pages]

- Provide the internal budget prepared by your college's Office of Sponsored Programs pre-award office. This budget will include cost share, if applicable. If cost share is included, provide a clear breakdown of the cost-share funds and sources. Specify each cost-share source/chart string.
- Provide a budget justification using the R-Initiative Budget Justification Template. If students or postdocs will be funded, describe what they will be expected to achieve, why 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. Explain the current funding source(s) of the students or postdocs, if applicable.

C. Documentation of Cost Share [No page limit]

Provide commitment emails or letters for the cost-share funds, if included.

D. Biosketch [Page limit determined by format]

Submit a biosketch for each PI, Co-PI, and senior personnel. Allowable formats include the R-Initiative Biosketch Template, NSF, or NIH.

E. Letters of Support [No page limit]

Only letters of support from external collaborators or consultants may be included.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks of proposal submission for Program 2. A review committee of relevant faculty peers and staff will evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

- Scientific and technical merit of the planned proposal
- Innovativeness of the planned proposal
- Potential for significant impact in keeping with Clemson's strategic priorities
- Extent of multidisciplinary and cross-college collaboration
- Potential for collaborations with Innovation Campuses, Research and Education Centers, Extension, and Clemson centers and institutes
- 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
- Clear path to additional funding from external sources

AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Initiation and Close-Out



Funds will be available to PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research and the PI's college business office. 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 those providing cost-share funds or the Division of Research). In the event the PI leaves Clemson during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.

Expenditure of Funds

Expenditure of R-Initiative award 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.

Research Compliance Requirements

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

Reviewer Requirement

Awardees will be called upon to serve as relevant reviewers for future R-Initiative competitions.

Project Income Policy

All income received from sales is considered Clemson University revenue, unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Endeavors, and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF). Guidelines surrounding royalties can be found in the Clemson University Intellectual Property Policy and should be followed accordingly.

No-Cost Extensions

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

DELIVERABLES AND 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 two months prior to the end of the award period. A copy of all deliverables will be requested with the final report.

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

In the event that the PI leaves Clemson during the reporting period, the reporting requirement will fall on the project team.



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 this opportunity may be directed to rifunds@clemson.edu.