



**CLEMSON STRATEGIC UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE FOR COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE
AND
EXPERTISE IN DISCOVERY AND SCHOLARSHIP
[CU SUCCEEDS]
Program 1: Project Initiation/Seed Funding
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 1 provides seed funding for the initiation of research activities. Deliverables must include a submitted proposal to an external funding agency.

Funding amount: Up to \$10,000
Deadline: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 4:30 PM
Funding period: One year: February 26, 2025 to February 25, 2026

Allowable Activities

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

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 (only 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, and/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 sharing is not required. Cost-share fund sources not allowable are Fund 18, Fund 20, Fund 22, and Fund 25. If cost share is provided, the 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 Wednesday, March 15, 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 1: [Proposal Title]**
- Name and college/departmental/school affiliations of the PI, co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Name and 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 components listed below 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 following headings]

- **Specific Aims.** Explain project objectives for the proposed work. What work will be done and why are CU SUCCEEDS funds necessary for the completion of that work?
- **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.** Describe how the proposed work will be accomplished.
- **Expected Results.** Detail the expected results of the proposed work.
- **Timetable.** Provide a schedule of tasks in the form of a table.
- **Deliverables.** Discuss expected project deliverables, including information about the targeted extramural funding opportunity for the planned proposal. Include dates for



planned submission and funding opportunity title, number, and URL. 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.

- **References/Works Cited**

B. Start-Up Package [1 page]

PIs within their first three years of employment at Clemson should provide start-up package details, including the following:

- Total amount
- Duration
- Current balance
- Number of graduate assistantship(s)
- Travel funds
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Other/discretionary funds provided as part of the hiring agreement.

If the PI does not have start-up funds, please state so.

C. Current and Pending Support [1 page]

Provide a list of current and pending internal and external funding, including the following:

- Project title
- Funding agency
- Project duration (mm/dd/yyyy–mm/dd/yyyy)
- Total direct costs, total indirect costs, and total amount of the award
- Role in project.

D. 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.

E. Documentation of Cost Share [No page limit]

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



F. 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.)

G. 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 1. A review committee of relevant faculty peers and staff will evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

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

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 should be directed to rifunds@clemson.edu.