



IMPACT R-INITIATIVE

2026–2027 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

IMPACT funding supports (1) innovative engagement of audiences beyond academia to magnify the value of completed, externally funded research, scholarship, and creative activities (hereafter, “research”) and (2) rigorous assessment of the extent to which this engagement increases the societal benefits of research and positions researchers to respond to future external funding opportunities.

Awardees will create audience-ready resources tied to research outcomes, deliver engagement activities, and document whom they reached and what audience members learned. They will also report evidence that the research informed decisions, practice, or policy and will outline plans for follow-up and sustainability. Together, these deliverables will show how the activities move beyond dissemination toward sustained partnerships with communities, industry and workforce organizations, practitioners, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Funding amount: Up to \$7,500
Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2026 at 4:30 PM
Funding period: One year beginning in January 2027

Allowable Activities

- Development and delivery of a new, audience-ready research-related product, such as a public exhibition, community or industry workshop, practical guide, policy brief, training module, demonstration, exhibit, or set of materials.
- Formal assessment of outcomes via a pre/post survey, participant feedback, knowledge check, or documented discussion showing the extent to which the audience understands, values, and uses the information shared.

Unallowable Activities

- Student recruitment
- Routine academic presentations
- Journal publication
- Attendance at an academic conference
- Continuation or scale-up of an existing engagement activity

R-Initiative 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 COLLABORATE, CREATE, IMPACT, or SEED proposal each fiscal 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

Costs related to organizing and assessing engagement or dissemination activities or events (e.g., community sessions/workshops/non-academic conferences/concerts/outreach), including:

- Materials/supplies
- Travel
- Participant costs
- Venue fees
- Printing costs
- Mailing costs
- Transcription costs
- Data collection and interpretation costs
- Services of an internal or external evaluator
- Insurance (as required)

Unallowable Costs

- Faculty salary
- Funding requests for graduate research assistants (GRAD)
- Attending and/or participating in traditional disciplinary research 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 encouraged but not required. Fund 18, Fund 20, Fund 22, and Fund 25 funds cannot be used for sharing costs. The cost-share funds must be available during the project period.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

PIs must submit their applications to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2026.



PROPOSAL PREPARATION

InfoReady Intake Information

Enter the following information into the InfoReady text fields:

- Project title beginning with **IMPACT: [Proposal Title]**
- Name, email, % credit allocation and college/department/school affiliations of the PI, co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- PI CUID
- 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).
- Anticipated deliverables
- Incentive account balance and obligations
- Start-up package information (for PIs within their first three years of employment at Clemson; if the PI does not have start-up funds, please state this)
 - Total amount
 - Duration
 - Current balance
 - Number of graduate assistantship(s)
 - Travel funds
 - Supplies
 - Equipment
 - Other/discretionary funds provided as part of the hiring agreement
- Current and pending support information
 - 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

Proposal Format and Components

Submit the proposal documents in InfoReady as PDFs. The project description should be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8½ x 11-inch paper size. The proposal includes the following components:

Project Description [4 pages max; please use the headings below]

- **Rationale.** Explain why the proposed project is needed and how it will support Clemson's mission and strategic priorities.
- **Summary of the Completed Research Project.** Provide a brief overview of the completed project that will be the basis for IMPACT activities. List its key findings.



- **Targeted Audience.** Specify the audience for the engagement activities.
- **Engagement Plan.** Describe the methods used to engage the targeted audience.
- **Assessment Plan.** Describe the anticipated outcomes of the engagement activities (e.g., increased understanding, a new partnership, informed decision-making, or use of a research finding) and the metrics you will use to measure success.
- **Deliverables.** Describe the anticipated deliverables. These should include new, audience-ready, research-related products, such as public exhibitions, community or industry workshops, practical guides, policy briefs, training modules, demonstrations, exhibits, a website, sets of materials, etc. Deliverables could also include new partnerships with communities, industry and workforce organizations, practitioners, stakeholders, and policymakers.
- **Sustainability Plan.** Describe how this work will be sustained over time. Who will maintain or use the materials generated? How will longer-term follow-up be funded? How will the team leverage the partnerships to expand engagement and position themselves for external funding?
- **Project Team.** Detail the team members' expertise and functions within the project.
- **Timeline.** Provide a Gantt chart of the tasks to be completed.
- **Need for IMPACT Funding.** Explain why this project can only be accomplished with R-Initiative funds.
- **References** [not included in page limit]

Budget and Budget Justification

- Provide a budget using the internal budget form template. 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 line-item budget justification for requested expenses using the budget justification template. If students or postdocs will be funded, describe what they will be expected to achieve and why the proposed project cannot be completed without the requested student or postdoc funding. Explain the current funding source(s) of the students or postdocs, if applicable.

Documentation of Cost Share [No page limit]

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

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.)

Letters of Support [No page limit]

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



REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

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

A review committee of faculty peers and staff will evaluate compliant proposals based on the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of proposed deliverables
- Strength of the engagement plan
- Strength of the assessment plan
- Feasibility of the sustainability plan
- Potential for significant impact in keeping with Clemson's mission and strategic priorities
- Demonstrated need for IMPACT funding.

Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks of proposal submission.

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 by 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.

If the PI leaves Clemson during the award period, the team must request a change of PI before the PI's departure. In the event that the PI leaves Clemson during the reporting period, the project team will assume responsibility for the reporting requirements.

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.