



Research Council for New Scholarly and Creative Initiatives: Seed Funding for Innovation

FY 2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Only full-time faculty members of Rutgers University *at the time of application* may apply. This designation includes non-tenure track, tenure-track, and tenured faculty at any career stage. Faculty members must hold a doctoral degree (or equivalent).

The following are **not** eligible to apply: coadjutant appointees, teaching and research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, visiting faculty members, and full-time administrators.

2. Is a postdoctoral associate eligible to apply?

A postdoctoral associate is not eligible for Research Council Awards. The awards are for permanent or potentially permanent faculty, whether tenure track or non-tenure track. Full time tenure track or non-tenure track faculty are eligible. Anyone who is temporary “by definition” is not, which includes postdoctoral associates.

3. How many collaborators are required for a Collaborative Multidisciplinary award?

The Collaborative Multidisciplinary award program requires a minimum of three collaborators. Each team member should be listed as a Co-Principal Investigator in the narrative. Collaborators must be full time Rutgers faculty members.

4. Is there a page limit for the application?

The page limit on the Project Description (in InfoReady) is 3 pages.

5. Can the funds be used as incentive – i.e., to pay research participants?

Yes, research project funds can be used to pay an incentive to research participants.

6. Can I apply to more than one program?

No, you can only submit an application to one program. The submitting of an application to the Fulcrum program and the Collaborative Multidisciplinary program or the Social and Racial Justice Awards program is not acceptable.

7. Can I submit more than one application to be considered for a Research Council Award?

No, because the Research Council funds are limited, faculty may only submit one application in a given cycle.

8. Can funds be used to provide collaborators with an honorarium?

No, funds cannot be used to provide collaborators with an honorarium.

9. Do you provide a Gantt Chart template?

No, we do not have a downloadable Gantt Chart template. You can use any Gantt chart that you want to indicate the timeline of your research processes. There are many samples online.

10. I received funding from the Research Council last year, am I eligible to apply?

No, if you received funding from the Research Council in 2019, 2020, or 2021 you are not eligible to apply.

11. Can I apply for a Research Council Award this cycle, if I received a Busch Biomedical Grant award last cycle?

Yes, you can. The caveat is the project you are requesting funding for from the Research Council Award mechanism must be different from the project that was funded by the Busch Biomedical mechanism.

12. Is there a funding priority?

Yes, priority is given to tenure-track faculty in their first or second three-year probationary appointment who have not yet been evaluated for tenure, to NTT faculty engaged in an active research and academic program, and to proposals from faculty who have not received an internal or external award in the past three (3) years.

13. Should I apply for a Busch Biomedical Grant or a Research Council Award?

Apply for a Busch Biomedical Grant if your proposal is intended to enhance biomedical research. For everything else, apply for a Research Council Award. **Faculty may not apply for both grants during the same cycle.**

14. What is the maximum award amount?

The Individual Fulcrum Awards Program is \$5,000.
The Social and Racial Justice Award Program is \$15,000.
The Collaborative Multidisciplinary Awards Program is \$25,000.

15. Is there any disadvantage to requesting the maximum amount of funding (provided it is fully justified)?

There is no disadvantage to asking for the maximum amount. However, it is possible that you will be awarded less than the amount that you are requesting which is dependent on the amount of funding available and the number of applications received.

16. Is travel allowed?

Yes, to travel to conduct research or creative initiative and to travel to present findings from the research project specifically funded by the Research Council at professional conferences. ***Please note: travel to conferences or annual meetings for professional societies for other purposes is not eligible for funding.***

17. Can I request to purchase equipment?

Yes, you may request to purchase equipment with Research Council funds; it must be accompanied by a letter from your Dean, Chairperson or Director stating that the equipment is not already available for use. Please note: for the purpose of Research Council Awards, equipment is defined as tangible personal property with a useful life greater than 1 year and a unit cost greater than \$600, including shipping, installation, and training.

18. Can award funds be used for salary?

No, Research Council Awards may not be used for summer salary, salary supplement, or to pay any part of an award recipient's salary.

19. Could a Research Council Award be used for a project that currently has partial funding?

No, faculty cannot apply for funding to support a project that is already funded.

20. Can I apply for a no-cost extension?

The Research Council operates on a small yearly budget, and no-cost extensions are granted rarely, and for exigent reasons only. Contact Co-Chairs, Kathleen J. Pottick and Antoinette Y. Farmer at rcg@oq.rutgers.edu.

21. When will award notifications be sent out?

Award notifications will be e-mailed by the end of May.

22. If awarded, when will I have access to the funds?

The applicant agrees to comply with IRB, IACUC and COI requirements as a condition of receiving funding. If the research project involves human or animal subjects, the applicant/recipient must provide proof that they have complied with IRB/IACUC requirements. The recipient must also have entered the appropriate information into the COI website. All awards will begin on July 1, 2022. All funds must be committed by May 1, 2023 and expended by June 30, 2023 for one-year awards and committed by May 1, 2024 and expended by June 30, 2024 for two-year awards.