



RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR NEW SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE INITIATIVES: SEED FUNDING FOR INNOVATION FY 2021-2022 SPRING CYCLE

OVERVIEW

Serious researchers in the sciences and social sciences and creative artists and scholars in the humanities know the value of seed money, as federal and foundation dollars become scarcer and pilot work is increasingly necessary to secure future extramural funding. Since 1943, Rutgers University has recognized that University support is critical to faculty members to test new and emerging ideas in diverse disciplines across the University through the **Rutgers Research Council Awards program**. In its 78th consecutive year, the Research Council (RC) awards program focuses on enhancing the opportunities for faculty to solve complex theoretical and empirical disciplinary problems in the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts. As a public land grant and anchoring institution, the University is committed to research and creative activities that can impact the future of our communities and our social relations within the University and the State of New Jersey and beyond. Total funding for this awards program is approximately \$300,000, with funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

ELIGIBILITY

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. The following are **not** eligible to apply: coadjutant appointees, teaching and research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, visiting faculty members, and full-time administrators. All awards are made on the basis of merit. 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 award in the past three (3) years. Faculty members must hold a doctoral degree (or equivalent).

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS PROGRAMS

By means of seed-funding awards, the RC supports new and innovative pilot studies that can lead to significant funding and publication in all fields of learning in the University, as well as for creative work in the arts. Funding is available through three separate programs. Faculty and teams may apply for only one funding program in any given year.

I. The Individual Fulcrum Awards Program is tailored to individual researchers and those in the creative arts who are testing new ideas to accelerate their scientific inquiry, program of research, scholarship, or creative production. It provides awards to early career faculty who have not previously received funding for the proposed work. It is also for more senior faculty who compellingly justify how the proposed work is a new initiative and who can clearly demonstrate that it is novel—not an extension of prior work or similar to work for which they have received funding over their career. These awards are not intended as bridge funds to support ongoing scholarly or research initiatives. These awards are meant to support new ideas that will develop a new line of research or artistic endeavors. Projects from associate-level faculty are especially welcome.

The maximum amount of the Individual Fulcrum Awards Program is \$5,000.

II. The Social and Racial Justice Awards Program, inspired by President Holloway's Equity Report and the University's commitment to fostering excellence in and as a beloved community, supports academic research on racial and social justice in all domains of intellectual, social, and environmental life. The program is for faculty who have not received prior internal or external funding to study diversity, equity, and inclusion; a limited number of awards will be given to senior faculty who can clearly justify that this is a new area of research or creative interest or that this research/creative project builds upon previous research or creative initiatives. Senior faculty need to indicate how studying this issue will advance their field of inquiry. The RC is particularly interested in research and creative projects that: (1) seek to understand the experiences of persons from diverse backgrounds and (2) focus on examining the structural, systemic, institutional, environmental, and individual effects of discrimination and racism.

The range of the Social and Racial Justice award is \$5,000–\$15,000.

III. The Collaborative Multidisciplinary Awards Program offers the opportunity for a group of faculty across disciplines to work together on a new, shared problem or line of research. The program is designed to foster and reward collaboration, as complex intellectual and social problems often require multiple perspectives and viewpoints to solve them. The program also encourages the growth of networks for increased research capacity and strengthened intellectual community. Applicants for this award must clearly justify why looking at the issues from various disciplinary perspectives is important. Collaborations on research and creative projects across campuses, STEM, humanities, and social sciences, faculty ranks, racial/ethnic backgrounds, gender and gender identity, and sexual orientation are encouraged.

The maximum amount of the Collaborative Multidisciplinary Awards Program is \$25,000.

Applicants may submit maximum requests of \$5,000 to the Individual Fulcrum Awards Program, 5,000-\$15,000 to the Social and Racial Justice Awards Program, and \$25,000 to the Collaborative Multidisciplinary Awards Program. Please be aware that the awarded amount may be less than requested. Applications requesting more than the maximum allowable amount, without selecting one of the designations, will not be reviewed. Individual Fulcrum awards are granted for one-year; Social and Racial Justice and Collaborative Multidisciplinary awards are granted for up to two years. A faculty member may submit only one application. Only *one* application may be submitted from a team of researchers. Faculty members may not submit the same proposal to any other Rutgers internal funding program in Fiscal Year 2021.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application should be submitted to [InfoReady](#). **Completed applications are due on or before 5 pm on Friday, April 16, 2021.**

The application should include the following:

1. Project title
2. Team, if any (PI, any Co-PIs with department, school affiliation, identify NB, Newark, Camden, or RBHS). List their roles and responsibilities
3. Abstract (100 words max)
4. Five (5) keywords that may include up to three (3) words from the title
5. Project Overview and objectives/aims of this project (25 words)
6. A statement that identifies the rationale for the project
7. The proposed study methods (e.g., data collection, measures or scales to be used, performance/creative arts methods, data analysis strategies)
8. Timeline (Gantt chart)
9. A description of the anticipated implications of the findings for practice, policy, and research, including the impact of the findings on fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion
10. A description of the plans to disseminate the findings
11. Plans and prospective sources for external funding to extend the proposed project
12. Budget (use template provided on InfoReady) and budget justification (Describe how each budget item is necessary for the successful completion of the project)
13. A bio-sketch or abbreviated CV covering the last five years of work for each team member (2-pages maximum per member; format is flexible—can be NIH or NSF format or any other format of choice; both teaching and research accomplishments should be included)

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by Research Council members from disciplines from all four Chancellors' units. They will be scored on 1) Intellectual merit/Significance; 2) Innovation/Originality; 3) Methodology/ Approach; 4) Broader impact; and 5) Potential for extramural funding. Please be sure to include sections with these headings within the proposal. Be specific when referring to potential for extramural funding.

BUDGET

All programmatic costs must be justified. Award funds may be used for the following:

- Compensation for research assistants or consultants.
- Travel to present findings from the research project specifically funded by the Research Council at professional conferences.
- Travel to conduct the research or creative initiative.

Requests to purchase equipment must be accompanied by a letter from a Chairperson or Director stating that the equipment is not already available for use.

Research Council Awards *may not be used* for summer salary, salary supplement, or to pay any part of an award recipient's salary. Awards may not be used to pay any publication fees charged by a journal. Awards may not be used for any general scholarly purpose not directly and specifically required for this project (For example, non-allowable expenses would include purchase of software that is not specific to this project; memberships in professional societies; journal subscriptions; and book purchases.). Awards may be spent *only* for the specific project and activities described in the funded proposal. Please note that all Rutgers University policies on the use of university funds must be followed.

AWARDS CONDITIONS

Award notifications, conditional upon the availability of funds, will be e-mailed in June.

The applicant agrees to comply with the Institutional Review Board (IRB), IACUC, and conflict of interest (COI) requirements as a condition of receiving awards.

If the research project involves human or animal subjects, the 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.

Funds must be spent in accordance with the proposed budget, and follow all University policies on the use of funds. Requests to modify one's budget plan or scope of work should be emailed to (rcg@oq.rutgers.edu), along with a justification.

All awards will begin on July 1, 2021. All funds must be committed by May 1, 2022 and expended by June 30, 2022 for one-year awards and committed by May 1, 2023 and expended by June 30, 2023 for two-year awards.

DELIVERABLES

Award recipients are asked to submit a project close-out report and a final report. A project close-out report is due within 30 days after the funding ends. This report should describe all work that has been completed related to the project, describing findings and presentations, if any. A final report is due 1 year of project close, detailing presentations, publications, grant submissions, if any, and other studies that build upon the findings of the funded project. Include any plans for continuing the project beyond the grant period and for securing extramural funding.

Public Products: As a public research University, Rutgers has an obligation to disseminate the results of its research. There is an implicit duty to inform the public of research findings. All RC award recipients are expected to develop a short public product which will be disseminated as a scholarly or creative product on the RC website. It can take the form of a one-page research brief or video for the performing and creative arts.

Award recipients may be invited to present their project at a campus research event.

For more information, contact:

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