

2021-2022
Collaboration Initiative
Request for Applications (RFA)

Introduction: The primary purpose of the Collaboration Initiative



Preliminary Data and Application Preparation Grants

[Up to \$40,000 total for one year]

Preliminary Data and Application Preparation Grants are intended for new and existing research collaborators across University of Nebraska campuses to generate preliminary data critical to extramural research proposal submissions. Collaborators must have confirmed that their topic fits the objectives of an extramural funding agency. These one-year grants should enable teams to:

- 1) Identify knowledge and expertise gaps that must be addressed prior to submission of a competitive application for extramural research funding;
- 2) Generate proof-of-concept or other preliminary data to support grant applications; and
- 3) Prepare and submit an application for extramural research funding.

In addition to being considered for the standard Preliminary Data grant, applications submitted in this category will be assessed for alignment with NSRI mission areas, and be considered for funding through VokI Independent Research and Development (IRAD) Program. NSRI IRAD program develops technical capabilities and competencies for its sponsor, U.S. Strategic Command, as well as the broader Department of Defense community focused on detecting and countering weapons of mass destruction. Additional details are available at nsri.nebraska.edu/IRAD.

Faculty who have not received extramural research funding (as either a PI or Co-PI) are eligible to serve as the lead PI on either [Team Formation and Publication Grants](#) or [Preliminary Data and Application Preparation Grants](#); however, one of the Co-PIs on the application must be grant-active and willing to serve as a research mentor to the team. In the event one of the PIs has not received extramural research funding, a brief mentoring plan must be included.

Team Seed Grants

[Up to \$150,000 total over two years]

Team Seed Grants are designed to enhance research collaborations among faculty that have previously collaborated (even if modestly so). Team members providing core leadership for the team must have individual records of extramurally-funded research as a PI or Co-PI. Addition of new team members to fill gaps in expertise is encouraged. Teams receiving these grants are expected to prepare and submit applications for extramural funding as described in their proposal. Applicants should request seed grant funding proportional to that available from the extramural program from which they will eventually seek support.² The purpose of this grant type is to establish a collaborative research team that is generating knowledge/preliminary data to enhance competitiveness of the team for extramural funding from a federal funding agency or foundation.

² To seek funding for the full \$150,000 two-year award amount, the extramural program should fund applications at or greater than \$200,000 per year.



General Eligibility (all grant types): Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors and equivalent-rank research faculty (including Extension Specialists with research appointments) employed by any University of Nebraska campus are eligible to submit funding applications as the PI and participate as Co-PIs. Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors of Practice (and other faculty ranks) that are members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to serve as Co-PIs. Faculty may serve as the lead PI on one seed grant and one preliminary data or team formation grant associated with this RFA; there is no limit on participation as Co-PIs. Collaboration Initiative funded PIs/Co-PIs are not restricted from seeking new funding for topics not previously researched with Collaboration Initiative support.

Collaboration Requirements: Proposals will not be considered for funding unless

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Application Format and Content: Applications (references, tables, and figures) must not exceed the page limits specified for the grant type. Font size must be 12 points or larger and margins must be at least one inch on all four sides. A title or signature page is not required. Proposals will only be accepted when submitted through the <https://nuramp.nebraska.edu> website. Consult the grants or research office on your campus for more information. In addition, by submitting (or administratively approving) an application, each campus certifies that named PIs, Co-PIs, and the campus itself agrees to waive all rights of access to the identity of any person who may conduct internal or external peer evaluations of their application. Each application shall have the following components:

Online text entry for:

Application Title	Abstract/Summary (not to exceed 300 words)
Grant Type	Total Funds Requested
PI Contact Information	Budget
Co-PI(s)	(Up to) Five primary aims/goals/objectives

Project Description/Narrative (uploaded as a PDF document)

OR

: Three-page maximum (including all references, tables, and figures),



Collaborative Roles and Responsibilities: Clearly describe the *role(s)*, *responsibilities*, *unique expertise*, and *expectations* for the PI and the Co-PI(s). Describe current or previous research collaborative interactions among team members. Describe how the _____ ideally suited to address the specific aims and research questions described in the application. Outline the existing facilities available to each participant, and the resources that will be made available if the project receives extramural funding in the future. Describe any existing collaborations, how they will b



Review Process

Team Formation and Publication Grants

Preliminary Data and Application Preparation Grants

Proposals will be assessed by a multi-campus committee of University of Nebraska research administrators. Proposals deemed applicable for NSRI IRAD funding will also be reviewed by the NSRI Science and Technology Advisory Committee.

Seed Grant Applications:

Proposals will be assessed by a panel of paid external reviewers.

General Criteria for Evaluation: Applications will first be screened to determine if all RFA guidelines have been met, including (but not limited to) retreat participation, general eligibility, formatting, collaboration requirements, and budget amounts.

Reviewers will be asked to rate applications to determine the potential for the PI/Co-PIs to build research teams that will actively seek and ultimately receive extramural funding.

Applications will be scored as follows:

- a) Plan to interact with potential funding agencies/foundations (20 points);
- b) Justification of the proposed approach and evidence that the



Reviewers also will be asked to provide an evaluative summary. * Final decision on efforts selected for funding under NSRI IRAD will be made by the NSRI Science and Technology Advisory Council. Final funding decisions will be made by the Vice Provost and the Executive Vice President and Provost.

For those applications that meet the RFA submission criteria, a panel of paid external reviewers will be asked to evaluate seed grant applications using a 100-point scale

