

UI Jumpstarting Tomorrow Request for Proposals: Round 1

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice the President for Research (OVPR) seeks applications to seed interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research communities that advance research, creative activities, and scholarship through grants of up to \$150,000.

Jumpstarting Tomorrow, a hybrid pilot grant/community-building program, will support innovative and collaborative teams that could become the vanguard for future strategic research investments by the university. The initiative was made possible through \$2 million in funding to RDO from the first round of disbursements related to the UI utility [public-private partnership](#) (P3).

Required Award Outcomes

- Advancement of creative and scholarly inquiry by collecting feasibility/pilot data that enables competitive grant proposals
- Sustainability of research through federal grant submissions
- Building of community by engagement throughout UI (e.g., speaker series, networking events, and ideation activities)
- Creation and facilitation of a competitive feasibility grant program for campus communities

Research Areas

Any area of creative and scholarly inquiry is welcome. However, research areas should strive for [convergence research](#) that incorporates diverse campus perspectives. The National Science Foundation (NSF) defines "[convergence research](#)" as having two primary characteristics: 1) research driven by a specific and compelling problem, and 2) deep integration across disciplines".

Successful Proposal Characteristics

This program seeks novel interdisciplinary research and scholarship conducted by new teams of investigators. Successful proposals will not be an extension of already funded research. If the idea could be submitted as a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 or a NSF investigator-initiated proposal, it is not appropriate for this program. For examples of the types of research sought through this program, please see: the NSF's [10 Big Ideas](#), the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's [Just Futures](#) program, the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#), and the NIH's [Common Fund Programs](#).

Community Building

In addition to advancing their research and scholarly questions, awarded teams are expected to help coalesce interested researchers into intellectual communities around their topic (administrative support provided by RDO). Community-building activities may range from journal clubs, networking events, speaker series, or ideation activities. Further, these community-building events can serve as opportunities to invite industry and private philanthropy to engage with the groups. The emerging communities will be supported through a competitive feasibility grant program (described on page 2).

Eligibility Criteria

- Any area of creative or scholarly inquiry striving for convergent research is welcome.
- UI faculty (tenure/tenure track) from any discipline are eligible to be PI or Co-PI.
- An individual may serve as a PI or Co-PI on only one proposal but may be a collaborator on multiple proposals.
- Project teams must consist of one PI and three or more Co-PIs. Teams should consist of three or more departments representing two or more colleges.
- Existing teams are eligible (i.e., published or received grant funding together); however, the creative or scholarly inquiry must be an entirely new direction for the team.
- A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by April 15. Full proposals are by invitation only and due May 31.

Letter of Intent

A brief LOI is required (≤ 1 page). LOIs will be reviewed by OVPR with competitive concepts invited to submit full proposals. Each team will receive feedback on their submitted concept. The LOI should include an abstract of the convergence research and scholarship project to be initiated, a list of targeted disciplines, and at least two metrics for evaluation of the project's impact.

Budget

The maximum research/community building award is **up to \$150k for one year**. Teams will also assist with distribution of an additional \$50k in community feasibility grants.

- A maximum of \$40k (does not include fringe) is allowed for faculty salary support. The \$40k can be used for one faculty member or distributed across several faculty but the total cannot exceed \$40k. These funds may be used for non-tenure track faculty (e.g., clinical/research track faculty).
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. No limit.
- Community building efforts should be represented in the budget and justified.
- All program costs are allowable with rational justification.
- Over expenditures of the budget are the responsibility of the departments.

Community Feasibility Grants

- Teams will assist in distributing \$50k through a competitive feasibility grant program. The exact details will be determined by the team and RDO/OVPR (e.g., specific focus; two \$25k vs. five \$10k awards, etc.).
- These grants are to support new campus relationships that emerge from the team's community building activities. Project PI/Co-PI's are not eligible to receive funding from these grants.
- Allow teams (2investigators from different departments) to develop feasibility data to support their efforts in securing future federal funding.
- The RDO/OVPR will provide administrative support for these programs (communication, dissemination, proposal collection, peer review, and award), while the awarded teams determine the call for proposals and assist with the peer review process.

Please use this [budget template](#) (Excel) to submit your budget. Provide a budget justification in a separate one-page document.

Proposal Guidelines

Teams invited to submit full proposals will be sent a link to the electronic proposal site.

1. Executive Summary (\leq 250 words; non-technical abstract)
2. Proposal Narrative sections to be included (\leq 5 pages, Arial 11-point font, 1" margins)
 - a. Describe the innovative, novel, and intellectual merits of the proposed work
 - b. Describe the convergent approach and why it is needed for this problem and what methodology will be used for achieving convergence (e.g., what are the benefits of incorporating interdisciplinary perspective to advance solutions)
 - c. Explain how the project will engage various communities (e.g., campus and/or external)?
 - d. Articulate the sustainability plan for the team's efforts (i.e., define federal funding target areas including agencies, programs, and grants)
 - e. Methods, Measures, and Metrics
 - i. Describe and justify the research methods and measures employed and how they promote convergence (qualitative, quantitative, lab/bench experiments, machine learning, etc.).
 - ii. How is progress defined, measured, and evaluated?
 - f. Timeline for proposed work
3. References (1 page)
4. Collaboration Justification (1 page)
 - a. What is the contribution of each discipline (PI/Co-PI's/Collaborators) towards achieving the convergent aims of the proposal?
 - b. How does the team plan to make decisions and work together (e.g., team science; communication, meeting, leadership, decision-making, etc.)?
5. Letters of Collaboration (not required for PI and Co-PIs)
6. Budget Spreadsheet (use [budget template](#))
7. Budget Justification that clearly explains why the requested resources are needed (\leq 2 pages)
8. Biosketches for PI/Co-PIs. Collaborator biosketches may be submitted.

Review Criteria

Proposals will be peer reviewed by a group of senior campus research leaders using the following criteria:

1. Innovation/Impact: Does the proposal articulate a new research program driven by a convergent vision that could lead to major advances, discoveries, or technologies?
2. Approach: Are the methods and overall approach viable?
3. Community Convergence: Does the proposal clearly specify a plan to form a strong and sustained research team and community that truly integrates disciplines towards a specific goal? Does the line of research represent new directions for the team members?
4. Engagement Plan: Does the proposal articulate a campus engagement plan?
5. Sustainability: Does the application articulate a plan for securing extramural funding?
6. Investigators: Does the research team have the required qualifications, accomplishments, and track record to accomplish the proposal work?
7. Does the proposal strategically engage historically excluded groups, involve early career faculty, or foster participation by undergraduates and graduate students?

LOI Deadline: April 15, 2021
Application (Invitation Only) Deadline: May 31, 2021
LOI Submission Portal: [Jumpstarting Tomorrow](#)



**Research Development
Office**

Jumpstarting Tomorrow Symposium

All awardees are expected to participate in a Jumpstarting Tomorrow symposium in Fall 2022. The symposium will be an additional engagement opportunity in addition to showcasing the teams, communities, and outcomes from the program.

Reporting Requirements

A final project report regarding both the scholarly research advances and community building activities as well as a draft federal funding proposal must be submitted by August 31, 2022.

Round 1 Application Process and Timeline

To submit an LOI, log in to the Jumpstarting Tomorrow [submission portal](#) with your HawkID and password. Full applications are by invitation only. Contact cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu / 319-384-3332, with submission questions.

April 15, 2021	LOI Deadline
April 23, 2021	LOI Feedback/Invitation to Submit
May 31, 2021	Application Deadline
July 1, 2021	Awards Announced
August 1, 2021	Funds Available
August 1, 2022	Progress Report Due
Fall 2022	Jumpstarting Tomorrow Symposium

Questions: Contact Aaron Kline (aaron-kline@uiowa.edu, 319-335-4142)