LOI Deadline: October 1, 2021  
Application Deadline (Invitation Only): November 15, 2021  
LOI Submission Portal: Jumpstarting Tomorrow

UI Jumpstarting Tomorrow  
Request for Proposals: Round 2

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) seeks applications to seed interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research teams and 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 Yr. 0 disbursements related to the UI utility public-private partnership (P3).

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.

- **Research driven by a specific and compelling problem.** Convergence research is generally inspired by the need to address a specific challenge or opportunity, whether it arises from deep scientific questions or pressing societal needs.
- **Deep integration across disciplines.** As experts from different disciplines pursue common research challenges, their knowledge, theories, methods, data, research communities and languages become increasingly intermingled or integrated. New frameworks, paradigms or even disciplines can form sustained interactions across multiple communities.

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL CHARACTERISTICS
This program seeks novel interdisciplinary research and scholarship conducted by new teams of investigators as well as campus engagement to build new research communities. **Successful proposals will not be an extension of already funded research. Further, if the idea could be submitted as a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 or a standard 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](https://www.nsf.gov/od/dramos/10bigideas/index.jsp), the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s [Just Futures](https://www.mellon.org/just-futures) program, the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/), and the NIH’s [Common Fund Programs](https://commonfund.nih.gov/).

See [here](#) for a description of Round 1 awards.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
- Any area of creative or scholarly inquiry striving for convergence research is welcome.
- Project teams must consist of **four or more team leaders**. Team leaders must come from three or more departments representing two or more colleges, based on primary appointments.
- Only *tenure/tenure track* UI faculty are eligible to be team leaders. Team leaders are the main investigators from one of the three or more required departments. They represent

**Questions:** Contact Aaron Kline ([aaron-kline@uiowa.edu](mailto:aaron-kline@uiowa.edu), 319-335-4142)
the key disciplines needed to achieve the deep integration required for the convergence research aims.

- Non-tenure track faculty (i.e., research/clinical/adjunct/instructional) and staff are eligible to be team members on proposals. Team members make significant contributions but do not have overall responsibility and authority for the project.

- An individual may serve as a team leader on only one LOI and full proposal but may be a team member on multiple LOIs and full proposals.

- Jumpstarting Tomorrow is designed to form and engage new teams. Existing teams are eligible (i.e., published or received grant funding together); however, for existing teams the creative or scholarly inquiry must be an entirely new direction for the team, including strong justification for why it’s a new direction.

- Round 1 applications that were not awarded are eligible to submit a Round 2 LOI for consideration, providing they have taken into account feedback from Round 1 reviews.

- **A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by October 1, 2021. Full proposals are by invitation only and due November 15, 2021.**

**REQUIRED AWARD OUTCOMES**

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

**CAMPUS COMMUNITY BUILDING**

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

**Campus 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 as the campus community emerges (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 campus community building activities. RDO will work with awarded teams to determine the details around month four of the project.
- Team leaders and team members are not eligible to receive funding from these grants.
- Allow community groups (>2 UI investigators from different departments) to develop feasibility data to support their efforts in securing future external funding.
- The RDO/OVPR will work with awarded teams to determine the details around month four of the project.

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LETTER OF INTENT
A brief LOI is required (<1 page, Arial 11-point font, 1" margins). LOIs will be reviewed by OVPR with up to 10 competitive concepts invited to submit full proposals. The LOI should include an abstract of the convergence research and scholarship project, a campus engagement plan including a list of targeted disciplines, and at least two metrics for evaluation of the project's science. Biosketches for team leaders must be submitted; team member biosketches may be submitted (see Proposal Guidelines for templates). No budget is required for the LOI. Please note the “Eligibility Criteria”; noncompliant LOIs will be returned without review.

BUDGET
The maximum 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 (plus 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 (i.e., clinical/research/adjunct/instructional).
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. No limit.
- Campus community building efforts should be represented in the budget and justified.
- All program costs are allowable with rational justification.
  - Travel is allowed but only if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for convening meetings.
- Expenditures over budget are the responsibility of the team leaders’ home departments.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
Teams invited to submit full proposals will be sent a link to the electronic proposal site. All documents should be Arial 11-point font and 1" margins.

1. Executive Summary (< 250 words; non-technical abstract)
2. Proposal Narrative sections to be included (< 5 pages)
   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. How will convergence be achieved?
   c. Explain how the project will engage various communities both on campus and off.
   d. Articulate the sustainability plan for the team’s efforts. Please define external funding target areas including agencies, programs, and grants. How would an award contribute to successfully obtaining these 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
4. Collaboration Justification (1 page)
   a. How does each discipline (team leaders) contribute 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.)?

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c. Please describe prior research collaborations among the team leaders and how this is a new direction for the team (if applicable).

5. Letters of Collaboration (not required for team leaders). NSF format must be used with no additional text allowed. All collaborations must be explained within the project narrative.

6. Budget Spreadsheet (use budget template)

7. Budget Justification that clearly explains why the requested resources are needed (< 2 pages)

8. Biosketches for team leaders. Team member biosketches may be submitted. Please limit to two pages: use NIH or NSF templates. For NIH, suggested format includes: two to three sentence personal statement and one key supporting publication, one or two sentences for contributions to science (one to two contributions) and 1 key supporting publication, and one or two ongoing or recently completed grants. You may leave out Other Experiences and Professional Memberships.

REVIEW CRITERIA
Proposals will be peer reviewed by a group of senior campus research leaders in an NIH-style panel review session 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. Convergence: Is the research driven by a specific and compelling problem requiring integration across disciplines? Does the proposal clearly specify a plan to achieve convergence research?

3. Approach: Are the methods and overall approach viable?

4. Campus Community Engagement Plan: Does the proposal articulate a campus community engagement plan, including strategies for sustained interdisciplinary interactions?

5. Strategic Engagement: Does the proposal strategically engage historically excluded groups, including early career faculty and students. Does the proposal foster engagement with undergraduate and graduate students?

6. Sustainability: Does the application articulate a plan for securing extramural funding, including specific opportunities?

7. Investigators: Does the research team have the required qualifications, accomplishments, and track record to accomplish the proposed work? Does the line of research represent a new direction for the assembled team?

JUMPSTARTING TOMORROW SYMPOSIUM
All awardees are expected to participate in a future Jumpstarting Tomorrow symposium. The symposium will be an additional engagement opportunity that showcases 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 external funding proposal must be submitted by February 15, 2023.

ROUND 2 SUBMISSION PROCESS
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 portal questions.

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**TIMELINE**

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