College of Letters and Science Incentives for Large Grant Proposals

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
L&S faculty experience multiple obligations in teaching, research, and mentoring. Large proposals require a significant investment of time and resources, including but not limited to: forging internal collaborations, building relationships with external partners, securing institutional support and investment, grant writing, and proposal assembly. Often, our faculty are unable to pursue large grants because there is simply insufficient time to devote to proposal development and submission. This limits both advancement of the individual and the college research mission.

This Large Grant Initiative will provide support for up to $80,000 over two years for L&S academic senate faculty to pursue large awards of >$1M in direct expenses (over no more than 3 years). Award periods can be longer (e.g., 5 years), although the total amount of direct expenses awarded to the PI(s) must be increased accordingly. The proposal can be from an individual applicant or a team of applicants from the College. While participation from multiple departments in the College is not required, it is strongly encouraged where applicable. Applications should describe how the funding will result in a successful NSF, NIH, DOE or equivalent award submission with the intent to discover knowledge that will have deep impact and significance.

ELIGIBILITY
Academic Senate Faculty members within the College of Letters and Science who are engaged in an active research program and who will serve in the leading roles (e.g., PI or Co-PI) of the large grant proposal are eligible.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION
All required application materials described below must be submitted through InfoReady at the following link: https://ucdavis.infoready4.com/#homePage

DATES & DEADLINES
Proposals due May 11, 2023 at 11:59 PM.
Funding announcement by mid-June 2023.
Funding starts in July 1, 2023.

BUDGET
The selected proposals will be supported by up to $50,000 in the first year, with the remaining funds awarded in year 2 (maximum $80,000 total), to assemble and submit a large grant application. The second year of funding is contingent on substantial progress towards or submission of a large grant application by the end of year 1. We anticipate awarding up to four (4) incentive grants.

Budgets may include:
- Direct support for time for the applicant to engage in grant preparation, including one course release (total, with permission of the applicant’s Department Chair).
- Support for dedicated research personnel to focus on grant writing, partnership building, proposal assembly, and/or data generation.
- Resources for travel, partnership building, or other proposal-related activities as appropriate.
- Resources for justified faculty exchanges or visits (10 days maximum), site visits, or hosting visitors at UC Davis.
- Additional support mechanisms and activities might be acceptable if there is a clear justification and need for the development of the particular funding opportunity.

APPLICATION DETAILS
Applications are limited to a total of six (6) pages for items 1-5 below, single spaced with standard 1” margins and font no less than 11 point. Please label each section clearly.

1. Project description. Up to two (2) pages, must include:
   – Title of the project
2. **Targeted grant application.** Up to one-half (0.5) page describing the proposal intended to result from incentive funding, must include:
   - College faculty members who will be listed as PIs. If the Large Grant proposal involves collaborators from outside the College, the names, affiliations, and respective roles must be provided.
   - Funding mechanism and agency (e.g., NIH, NSF or other funding agency). Must have a budget of at least $1M in direct expenses (over no more than 3 years). Award periods can be longer (e.g., 5 years), although the total amount of direct expenses awarded to the PI(s) must be increased accordingly.
   - Projected submission date within eighteen (18) months of incentive funding start date.

3. **Sustainability.** Up to one-half (0.5) page addressing plans for how the PI(s) and project can continue to make progress if not funded in the first round / on initial submission and plans for a second submission if necessary.

4. **Budget Justification.** Up to one (1) page describing how funds will be used and a brief description of other available (matching) funds in support of the proposal preparation if applicable.

5. **Budget.** Must use the provided Excel template, two (2) pages (tabs) must include:
   - Tab 1: Itemized budget request for this call. Instructor replacement cost for a course release (if requested) must be included as part of the requested budget.
   - Tab 2: Timeline of planned proposal preparation activities.

6. **Biosketch(es).** Not included in the six (6) page application limit. Standardized biosketch of four (4) pages maximum for each applicant on the CLAS Incentives for Large Grant Proposals Call. Must use provided template.

**REVIEW & SELECTION CRITERIA**
Applications will undergo a peer-reviewed, competitive evaluation process using the below criteria by an ad hoc committee made up of members of the Research Support Committee (RSC) and other faculty reviewers. The review committee will have expertise that is adjacent, though not necessarily identical, to the research area of the proposal, so consider a non-specialist audience when drafting your proposal.

**Criteria:**
1. Novelty, feasibility, productivity, significance, and potential impact of the project as proposed.
   - Does the proposed work build on past funded projects, exhibit innovation, and/or represent a critical next step in the applicant's research trajectory?
   - Has the proposer identified an appropriate funding mechanism?
   - Are activities and assigned budget appropriate and sufficient to support the intended outcomes?
2. Strength of research and funding record.
3. Sustainability.

**PROGRESS REPORT**
Each applicant (or applicants) selected to receive an incentive funding award must submit a progress report by February 1, 2024, which should include a timeline for the submission of a large grant award application by December 2024 or earlier. A template and instructions will be provided in advance.

**QUESTIONS?**
Contact ls_research@ucdavis.edu for all questions regarding the program.

For InfoReady technical support issues only, contact the Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@ucdavis.edu.