FY23 INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH   
ENABLING INITIATIVE



**Request for Proposals:**   
Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Awards

Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award Partners

Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center

Center for Cancer Engineering

Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Center for Urban and Regional Analysis

Center of Microbiome Science

College of Medicine Department of Biomedical Informatics

Foods for Health

John Glenn College of Public Affairs

Sustainability Institute

The Translational Data Analytics Institute (TDAI) collaborates with partners throughout Ohio State to support compelling research pilots and creative expression that: 1) are interdisciplinary, big data-enabled and not supported by single-discipline funding mechanisms; 2) are viable and intended for pursuing extramural opportunities; and, 3) have translational potential to benefit the greater good.

TDAI invites research proposals for awards that may include:

* Up to $50K for direct costs
* TDAI data services and consulting
* Data commons access
* Staff support and space for conferences, workshops and other convening events
* In-kind support for initiating projects with Ohio Supercomputer Center or other partners
* Staff support for developing broadening participation aspects of the work
* TDAI space in Pomerene Hall for meetings and events

All topics are welcome, and TDAI and its partners have particular interest in research in:

* AI and Health

Climate research opportunities

TDAI, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center and the Sustainability Institute have issued two calls for climate research proposals:

[Data-Intensive Climate Analytics Research Pilots](https://tdai.osu.edu/media/699) – letters of intent due Dec. 15

[Climate Change Proposal Development Grants](https://tdai.osu.edu/media/698) – Rolling deadline

* Environment and Sustainability
* Responsible and Ethical Data Science
  + Award components may also include:
    - Assistance in accessing the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive through the Ohio Education Research Center
    - Battelle Center for Science and Engineering student community group formation for research or a rapid innovation course

AI + Food/Nutrition opportunities

Foods for Health and TDAI have issued two calls for proposals:

[FFH/TDAI Research Pilot Awards](https://tdai.osu.edu/media/702) (up to $50K) – letters of intent due Dec. 15

[FFH/TDAI Planning Grants](https://tdai.osu.edu/media/703) (up to $10K) – Rolling deadline

* + - Consulting on engaging government partners and resources
  + In addition to the evaluation criteria below, additional consideration is given to proposals that emphasize practical outcomes and tools such as scorecards, dashboards, etc.
* Smart Mobility
  + Award components may also include:
    - High-performance computing optimized for geospatial analysis and modeling and simulation
    - Data services and consulting including mobility, geospatial and urban data analytics; customized tool and app development; and design of complex data structures
    - Assistance with partnering with community organizations such as MORPC, COTA, and the City of Columbus

**KEY DATES**

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| --- | --- |
| RFP Issued | Nov. 1, 2022 |
| Optional: Info session at Interdisciplinary Research Fall Forum | Nov. 7,  11:30am-1:30pm  320 Pomerene Hall |
| Letters of intent and names of possible reviewers due | Dec. 15, 5pm ET |
| Proposals Due | Jan. 17, 2023, 5pm ET |
| Notice of Awards | March 14 |
| Funds Released | July 1 |
| Project Period | 7/1/23 – 6/30/24 |
| Project Summary Due | 8/1/24 or earlier |

**REQUIREMENTS**

An Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award **team** is **required** to:

* Submit a letter of intent (see below)
* Have two or more PIs who represent different departments and distinct disciplines and who are affiliates or core faculty of TDAI and/or award co-sponsors
* Intend to pursue extramural funding, publication or community engagement as a next step

FAQ

*How many awards will be given?* The number of awards depends on the number of high-scoring proposals received and amounts of funding requested. Teams may be asked to adjust their funding requests if reasonable to maximize the number of teams supported.

*Can teams submit more than one quad chart?* Yes.

*Can researchers be members of more than one team?*Yes.

*Can teams include collaborators from other organizations?* Yes, however external collaborators cannot receive pilot award funds.

*Can teams pursue pilot award/seed grant opportunities offered by other OSU entities?* Yes. Teams are encouraged to pursue all opportunities, and to share plans for doing so in order to facilitate coordination.

An Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award **project** is **required** to:

* Be innovative and convergent across two or more distinct disciplines
* Have an explicit data science and/or analytics component
* Map to extramural funding, publication or community-based opportunities as next steps
* Be completed within one year

Additional consideration is given to projects that:

* Address racial justice through approach, stakeholder engagement, outcomes or other aspects
* Represent one or more underrepresented groups in the team’s composition
* Represent three or more departments and distinct disciplines in the team’s composition
* Include student or trainee development
* Use or create assets (e.g., tools, data repositories) that can be utilized by others in the OSU research community

**AWARD TERMS**

* The one-year period of performance can start autumn semester 2023 if funds are to support a graduate student.
* Funds may notbe used for travel, overhead, capital expenditures or faculty salary. Fund transfers must be coordinated with the contact PI’s unit fiscal officer using an internal university cost center. All university and unit policies for use must be followed.
* Award recipients agree to:
  + Provide a brief project summary within 30 days of the project’s completion (template provided)
  + Serve as reviewers for future interdisciplinary pilot cycles based on subject matter expertise
  + Acknowledge award sponsors in publications, presentations, publicity and PA-005s for grants that utilize data or other outcomes from the pilot

**REQUIRED LETTER OF INTENT**

**To be eligible for an Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award**, teams are required to outline the following in a letter of 2 pages or less and submit it no later than **Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. ET**:

* Names and affiliations of all PIs, including short descriptions of past work and expertise and previous collaborations among the PIs.
* 2-3 sentences describing key questions the team will address and the techniques they will use
* Three recommended reviewers from Ohio State with whom no team members have:
  + Co-authored of any publications, pending publications, or submissions within the past 3 years
  + Collaborated on any project, including current and planned collaborations within the past 3 years
  + Been an advisor or advisee for thesis, dissertation, or post-doctoral work
  + Had any other reasonable conflict of interest (consulting, financial arrangement, etc.) within the last 3 years

🡪Submit your **letter of intent** as a Word document or PDF **by Dec. 15, 5 p.m. ET**, using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/f5T9e1dwym>

**PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Eligible proposals are reviewed and scored by subject matter experts and award sponsor leadership based on the following criteria, which teams are encouraged to consider when writing your proposal:

1. Project Merit
   1. The problem being addressed is clearly stated
   2. The proposal addresses a compelling research question
   3. The project outcomes have reasonable potential to result in or lead to transformational, rather than incremental, change
   4. The proposal includes a well-reasoned ethical consideration of the research and its broader implications
   5. The problem requires an interdisciplinary approach to address
2. Methodology
   1. The approach and methods are clear, reasonable and appropriate and have an explicit data science/analytics component
   2. The advantage of this methodology over the next best alternative and the expectation of success are well-reasoned and justified
   3. The team is sufficiently interdisciplinary in its composition to address the challenge
3. Outcomes and Evaluation
   1. The expectation for outcomes is reasonable, justified and worthwhile
   2. The proposal includes a definition and metrics for success that are reasonable and appropriate
4. Vision for Next Steps: The proposal includes next steps for pursuing additional funding
5. Timeline and Budget/Resource Request
   1. The work as outlined can be accomplished within one year
   2. Key milestones are included that are reasonable and effective for completing the project in the proposed timeframe
   3. The proposed budget is reasonable for the activities described and within Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award parameters
6. Additional Considerations

The project:

* 1. Addresses racial justice issues through approach, stakeholder engagement, outcomes or other aspects
  2. Includes members of underrepresented groups in the team’s composition
  3. Includes student or trainee development opportunities
  4. Uses and/or creates data assets that can be utilized by other OSU researchers

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL**

*Note*: Only teams that submitted a letter of intent (see above) are eligible to submit a proposal for an Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award.

1. Complete your proposal using the required format below.
2. Combine your proposal with biosketches for faculty team members that utilize the NSF or NIH template into a single PDF and name your file using this convention: **FY23 IRPA – [*Contact PI Last name*] – [*Project Title*]**
3. Submit your PDF **by 5 p.m. ET on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023,** using this link:  
   <https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4OZ0Euk5eHqtJFY>

**REQUIRED PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Project descriptions must be single-spaced with 1/2-inch margins and 10-point Arial type, and include the following sections:

**I. Project Description** (3 pages or less; project description content beyond 3 pages will not be read. References do not count toward this page limit)

1. Title
2. Contact PI Name, Title and Department(s), Email
3. Keywords
4. Merit: Describe your project’s scientific, scholarly and/or artistic significance; the potential applications/impact of its outcomes and their potential to result in or lead to transformational, rather than incremental, change; and why an interdisciplinary approach is needed. Discuss any ethical considerations for the research.
5. Approach and Methodologies: Describe your interdisciplinary approach and methodologies and the data assets you will use and/or generate. Discuss how your project is novel or innovative compared to the next-best alternative.
6. Outcomes and Evaluation – Describe:
7. Outcomes you expect, e.g., preliminary data, publications, curriculum development, etc.
8. Metrics you will use to measure success
9. Next steps you intend to pursue toward extramural funding. Include specific funding agencies/mechanisms/opportunities if known.

**II. Team** (<1 page): List the name, title(s) and department(s), relevant expertise, and role on the project for every team member, including students and staff. Core faculty (hires) of award co-sponsors should include that designation along with their departmental appointment(s).

**III. Timeline** (<1 page): List dates and brief descriptions of key milestones for completing your project.

**IV. Resourcing Request** (<1 page)

1. Funding (copy-paste this completed box into your project description).   
   Amounts must reflect actual costs. Funds may notbe used for travel, overhead, capital expenditures or faculty salary. Total request may not exceed $50,000.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Intended Use(s) (include a brief description, e.g., type, purpose, etc.) | Actual Cost(s) |
| Personnel |  |
| Supplies |  |
| Services |  |
| Other |  |
| Total |  |

1. In-Kind (copy-paste this completed box into your project description)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Description (e.g., type, amount/general magnitude, etc.) | |
| Data commons access |  | |
| TDAI physical space |  | |
| Data services & consulting |  | |
| Staff support for convening activities (workshops, conferences, etc.) |  | |
| Other staff support |  | |
| Other: |  |  |

**V. Signature** (copy-paste this completed box into your project description)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I acknowledge that this proposed project does not present a conflict of interest for any project team member or award sponsor, or for the university. I acknowledge that I am responsible for fulfilling reporting obligations associated with the Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Award program, and for ensuring that the conduct and activities of this team and its guests comply with the values and policies of the award sponsor(s) and university while using awarded resources. | |
| Contact PI Name (please print) | Email |
| Signature | Date |

Proposals must be submitted via Qualtrics by **5 p.m. ET** on **Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.**

Late submissions will not be read or reviewed.

If you have questions, [email TDAI research strategist Jenny Grabmeier](mailto:grabmeier.3@osu.edu?subject=Interdisciplinary%20Research%20Pilot%20Award%20question).3.