REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ZUMBERGE
RESEARCH COORDINATION & TEAM BUILDING (RCTB) AWARD

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 pm, Monday, June 13, 2022

PURPOSE

The Zumberge Research Coordination & Team Building (RCTB) award provides opportunities to foster new collaborations between USC faculty, as well as between USC and other research institutions nationally, with the goal to support faculty teams working on collaborative, multidisciplinary new research projects.

The RCTB award does not fund primary research. Rather, the program supports the means by which investigators can share information and ideas, coordinate ongoing or planned research activities, and foster synthesis and new collaborations. The proposed activities should establish the foundation for members of the collaborative group to create new research projects as well as develop working relationships with state and federal funding agencies and foundations.

Support will be provided for teams of investigators to communicate and coordinate their efforts across disciplinary, organizational, institutional, and geographical boundaries. The objectives are to facilitate open communication and exchange of information and resources as well as to integrate research.

Applications can request up to $25,000. The award does not provide opportunity for renewal.

ELIGIBLE TOPICS

RCTB proposals should focus on a research question, topic or particular technologies and approaches relevant to one or more participating USC schools/units. Consideration will be given to all well-justified, cohesive proposals advancing research coordination in a field or combination of fields.

The RCTB program accepts proposals in all research areas grounded in team science, including, but not limited to, STEM, social science, health-related research, etc. Of particular interest are proposals in research areas of newly established government programs and initiatives such as TIP – Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, ARPA-H - Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, the Regional Innovation Engines, and those of foundations (e.g., the Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation).
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must be permanent, full-time faculty at USC. Tenure track and non-tenure track faculty are eligible; visiting and adjunct faculty are not eligible to apply but may serve as collaborators.
- Proposals must designate a team that includes one Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one co-Principal Investigator; at least two separate schools within USC must be represented between the primary appointments of the PI and Co-PI.
- It is strongly encouraged that faculty teams include at least one Assistant Professor. Applications should also specifically describe the involvement of other faculty or key personnel who have agreed to participate in the project.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

Examples of activities include, but are not limited to:

**Workshops/Seminars:** Priority will be given to topics and formats that are focused on strategies for building new collaborations between individuals and/or groups from diverse disciplines and/or which apply team science principles.

**New Team Development:** Priority will be given to activities focused on development of new research partnerships across disciplines (brainstorming to engage specialists from different disciplines). Proposals should describe how the activities will be focused on building a successful collaborative, multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary team capable of moving forward in a new research direction and securing new research funding.

GRANT CONDITIONS

- Sub-contracts are not permitted under this program.
- Awards include fringe benefits but are not assessed facilities & administration costs (i.e., indirect costs).
- Awards do not fund faculty salary for the PI, Co-PI or collaborating PIs.
- Awards do not fund student tuition and other student fees (such as health insurance).
- Awards do not fund primary research.

NOTIFICATION AND TERM OF AWARD

In the event of a favorable panel recommendation and approval by the Vice President of Research, applicants will be notified of the amount and conditions of the award by August, 2022, with funds also available in August, 2022. Copies of the notification of the award will be sent to school research vice deans.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the award or the application submission process can be directed to orif@usc.edu.

For submission instructions, see the Proposal Guidelines.
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GUIDELINES

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Before preparing a proposal, applicants should read closely the program description, including the sections on eligibility and evaluation criteria.

Proposals are submitted using the Office of Research Initiatives & Facilities online application system (here).

Format: Proposal documents should be written using a standard font (e.g., Arial or Times New Roman), 12 point, single-spaced, with one-inch margins.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Cover page information (to be filled out on-line)

a) Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI(s) contact information and 10-digit USC ID number.
b) Proposal title.
c) Amount requested.

Sections to be uploaded: Please follow instructions carefully and do not submit additional materials (such as hyperlinks to websites) not requested by this RFP. Information that is uploaded beyond what is requested will not be included in the proposal package provided to reviewers. Documents should be uploaded as PDFs.

a) Brief description (not to exceed 60 words): A succinct description of the proposed work.
b) Proposal Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages including any literature references): The narrative should include the following headers:

- Topic/focus of research coordination: Proposals should identify a clear theme as the focus of its activities. What are the theoretical and/or methodological foundations of the team’s proposed activities, what questions will be addressed?
- Proposed activities: What activities will be undertaken, what new groups of investigators will be brought together, what products will be generated by the proposed activities?
o **Collaborators**: Describe the collaborating team, as well as potentially targeted non-USC collaborators and/or institutions.

o **Future directions of the proposed work**: Include a brief description of the expected outcome and defined next steps, as well as a description of the methods that will be used to assess impact.

c) **Budget Justification (not to exceed one page)**: Provide a justification for the proposed expenses. No specific format is required so long as the budget and explanation contain the relevant information.

d) **Curriculum vitae: (not to exceed 5 pages per PI)**: Applicants may use any standardized CV format, or institutional ones (such as the NIH Biosketch, NEH, etc.). CVs of all PIs should be uploaded as a single PDF document.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Submit your proposal application utilizing the Office of Research Initiatives & Facilities application submission and reporting portal.

Go to the ORIF [grant portal](#) to log in (or create an account for yourself), using your USC email address.

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*Proposals submitted after to the above-mentioned deadline will be rejected without review.*

**Signatures**: By submitting the online application, applicants indicate their agreement to comply with the terms and conditions of the RCTB Award as well as all other applicable USC policies.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROGRAM CONTACT**

For additional information or inquiries about the program application submission process, please contact [orif@usc.edu](mailto:orif@usc.edu).