Proposal Incentive Program
June 2024

Program Overview

The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education invites applications for a one-time proposal incentive program to stimulate and enhance proposals for larger federally funded DU research and creative activity that includes graduate trainees. For successful applicants meeting the criteria below, DU will provide up to $10,000 to be used for faculty summer support during the summer of 2024 or 2025. Alternatively, faculty may choose to use this support for research assistant salary and fringe. To be eligible, the proposals must meet the following requirements:

- A multi-year federal grant proposal for which the applicant is PI or co-PI and DU is the prime recipient.
- The submitted grant must have an annual proposed budget of at least $250k.
- The mechanism must return DU's full academic research (ARC) federally negotiated Facilities and Administrative (F&A) indirect cost rate.
- The submitted grant must include full funding for at least 1 graduate student research assistant, including tuition, as part of the budget (minimum of 9 months during the AY, 12 months including summer is encouraged).
- The proposed period of performance should begin no later than 9/1/2025.
- The submitted grant must be a new or revised application for new work (not extensions of existing awards such as no cost extensions or supplements).
- The submitted grant must be complete and accepted by the agency **for review** on or before May 1, 2025.

Eligibility and Award Limitations

All tenure and research series faculty who are lead Principal Investigators or Co-Principal Investigator (PIs) on external grants submitted in fiscal year 2025 with a proposed project start date no later than September 1, 2025, and is restricted to those without an active award or to those with an active award(s) within six months of closing out. One application per grant (for one PI); no more than one application per PI. The goal of this program is to support and incentivize new large awards that contribute to R1 criteria. Priority will be given to new PIs or prior successful PIs who have experienced a professional or personal event that requires them to re-start their grant activity, as well as distributing incentivized support across PIs and units.

Application Requirements

The application request should be prepared and submitted to the Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education via Pam Encinas, pamela.encinas@du.edu, immediately after a qualified proposal submission and should include the following in one PDF document:

1. Proposal cover page which includes list of co-PI(s), start date, agency, proposed budget amount, and other critical information.
2. Entire proposal package including budget.
3. A letter of support from the department or program chair. Support letters should comment on the strength of the proposed idea and team, the faculty member's eligibility per the criteria above, and the chair/program director's evaluation of whether this incentivized kickstart would benefit the PI and the program/department.

4. Proposed use of salary support funds should be specified (i.e. stipend for the PI, graduate student funding or other specific staff support to allow proposal submission), and the specific timeframe requested for the salary support. Although only one PI may submit per grant, co-PIs may split the $10k salary support among themselves if they choose.

Evaluation Criteria and Timeline (subject to change)

Proposals will be evaluated by Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education with consultation from senior faculty with funding from the specific agency. Evaluation will be based on successfully submitted complete proposals (it need not be awarded to qualify). The VPR has set aside $200k for this program in FY25 and will announce when the funds have been fully expended. Additional considerations will include potential of the work to propel forward a scientific program or group, training opportunities for graduate students, and equity of awards across units. Evaluation will be done quarterly. Applications submitted prior to August 1, 2024, will be in the first evaluation pool, this will repeat on October 1, 2024, January 1, 2025, April 1, 2025, and July 1, 2025.