Food Systems Institute Cross-disciplinary Research Seed Fund
2020 Call for Proposals

The University of Florida (UF) mission statement emphasizes the commitment to lead and serve Florida, the nation and the world by pursuing and disseminating new knowledge. The Food Systems Institute (FSI) will further highlight UF’s leading role in finding and promoting evidence-based solutions to the greatest challenge of our time — providing safe and nutritious food for a teeming global population while enhancing livelihoods, societies, and the environment.

The primary objective of this call for proposals is to bring together University of Florida (UF) faculty and scholars from different disciplines to join forces addressing a particular challenge in current food systems.

For additional information, contact fsi@ifas.ufl.edu

Eligibility and Composition of Research Team

- This call is targeted at the UF faculty across colleges.
- The lead principal investigator (PI) must meet the UF Policy on PI eligibility to submit a proposal for external funding: https://research.ufl.edu/dsp/proposals/eligibility-to-submit-a-proposal-for-external-funding.html.
- Faculty with adjunct appointments may be listed as Co-PIs in the proposal.
- The project team will ideally comprise a mix of senior and junior scientists, including postdoctoral researchers, graduate and/or undergraduate students.

Awards, Funding Guidelines, and Project Renewal

Up to $60,000 will be awarded; award amounts could be up to $30,000 per proposal.

The start date of the project is February 2021 with a maximum duration of 12 months.

The FSI may require changes to proposals as a requirement for funding. It may also, at its discretion, award less money than was originally requested by a project team.

Project Requirements

All proposals must meet the following requirements for consideration:

1. The project should reflect the mission of the Food Systems Institute and address pressing issues in the field of sustainable food systems.
2. The project should be interdisciplinary drawing together faculty and research staff across academic disciplines. Faculty should be from at least two departments/units/colleges. Single-investigator proposals will not be reviewed.
3. The proposed work should address at least one of the thematic areas of the Food Systems Institute: 1) Global food and nutrition security, 2) Food production and distribution systems, 3) Health, economics, livelihoods, and society and 4) Food production and the environment. The proposal should also address

Food Systems Institute Vision:
To develop transformative and sustainable research-based solutions that enhance nutrition, health, livelihoods, and the environment globally through improved food systems.
at least one of the Institute’s five (5) cross-cutting themes: 1) Metrics and tools, 2) Inclusion and Equity, 3) Capacity building, 4) Adapting to emerging issues and 5) Enabling environment. Please refer to the Food Systems Institute website for more details: https://foodsystems.ifas.ufl.edu/research/.

4. Projects may be place-specific, but the overarching theme should be relevant on a global scale.

5. The proposal should describe how the project will create a legacy through significant complementary external funds to further the research.

Proposal Review
All proposals received will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Grants and Donations Committee of the Food Systems Institute.

The evaluation criteria for proposals will be:
- Importance, creativity, feasibility and potential impact of the research
- Capacity, expertise, and experience of the interdisciplinary project team
- Legacy plans for extramural funding

After evaluation, these proposals will be assigned recommendations of “strongly support”, “support”, “support, if possible” and “do not support”...

Guidelines for submission
Please send the requested materials to fsi@ifas.ufl.edu indicating “FSI seed grant submission” in the subject line.

Formatting: Proposals should be written in at least 12-point font, with at least 1.0 in margins throughout.

Figure legends and tables can be in 10-point font. The proposal should have a maximum length of 3 pages. The Cover Page, References, CVs, budget and budget justification, as well as any figures and tables are not included in the 3-page limit.

Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence:

1. **Cover page:**
   Project title
   PI, Co-PI(s), and collaborator(s) names, titles, departments, email addresses, and phone numbers
   Duration: (maximum duration up to 12 months)
   Proposed Cost to FSI: $

2. **Project Plan and Approach:** This section should lay out the goals and objectives of the project and the research plan. The plan should include the hypotheses being tested and the experimental design used to test them, including the data collection and analysis methods. PIs must demonstrate why the proposed research methods are the most appropriate relative to alternative approaches to test their hypotheses.

   If secondary data analysis is needed, the proposal should identify the data sets to be used, their sources and how they will be obtained. If the project proposes to develop a new tool or modify an existing one, PIs should articulate the rationale and clearly state the methods, with supporting references, for developing these tools.

   The project description should be written such that it can be understood by an interdisciplinary faculty committee. The proposal will not be evaluated by a discipline-specific committee.
3. **Legacy:** The proposal should discuss how the experience gained from the project might be leveraged for external funding in the future and identify potential funding sources.

4. **Timeline and Milestones:** Include the main milestone targets and a proposed timeline.

5. **PI and Team:** Provide a brief description of team member’s roles and how the team plans to involve students and postdocs (for example, explain what professional development will be provided to participating students and or postdocs).

Additional Documents:

6. **References**

7. **CV’s:** Provide 2-page CVs for all project team members except students.

8. **Budget:** Start on a new page and provide a detailed budget table. All items in the budget should directly support this project and be related to the proposed research.

9. **Budget Justification:** A brief budget justification (not more than one page long) should be included. The budget may include all normally allowable costs of research. All items in the budget should directly support this project and be related to the proposed research.

Include the following breakdown:

- **Personnel** – List support staff and percent effort of each, and associated fringe. No more than 50% of the budget should go towards Personnel & Tuition costs. Funding cannot be allotted, to cover faculty time, or permanent staff salaries (Teams employees).

- **Equipment** – Identify equipment to be purchased under this award.

- **Materials and supplies** – List materials and supplies that will be purchased under this award.

- **Travel** – List locations, approximate dates and justification for travel. Note that UF/State/Federal travel restrictions apply.

- **Student Tuition (Graduate)** – No more than 50% of the budget should go towards Personnel & Tuition costs

- **Facilities & Administrative costs** – No F&A is allowed for these projects.

- **Cost Share** – No cost share is required for this effort.

**Deadlines**

**Submission**

The deadline for submission of full proposals is 5:00 PM (EST), January 31, 2021. Submit the requested materials to fsi@ifas.ufl.edu indicating “FSI seed grant submission” in the subject line. **Late submissions will not be considered.**

**Reporting**

A midterm report is due halfway through project period. A final report is due at the end of the project. Templates for both will be provided one month prior to deadline.