

September 18, 2017

TO: UF/IFAS Faculty

FROM: Jackie K. Burns

SUBJECT: Call for Early Career Scientist Seed Grant Proposals – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

IFAS and the University of Florida are committed to investing to maximize impacts of UF/IFAS research and facilitate success of UF/IFAS research faculty. Key to the long-term success of UF/IFAS research programs is promoting professional development and achievements of UF/IFAS's early career scientists. The research skills and record of research accomplishments established during the early years can set the stage and trajectory that shape the rest of the scientist's career.

To promote and facilitate success of early career scientists, the UF/IFAS Dean for Research Office, in partnership with the University of Florida Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Florida Vice President for Research, is requesting proposals to support research of tenure-track faculty.

**Awards:** A total of up to \$750,000 will be awarded to as many as 15 tenure-track faculty. The maximum individual award will be \$50,000 and there is no minimum award size. Successful grants will be announced in December 2017 and should be spent by December 2019.

**Eligibility:** PI of the proposal must be a tenure-track Assistant Professor with a tenure home in UF/IFAS, have an official research appointment, and not be in their final year of the probationary period. Faculty who have already received an Early Career Scientist Seed Grant are not eligible. Faculty status will be based on rank on July 1, 2017. Faculty must have a REEport project that has been approved by NIFA prior to submission.

**Scope and Criteria:** The intent of the funding is to facilitate development and success of research programs of early career scientists. Accordingly, these funds should be spent within 24 months to “jump-start” programs and provide a platform for future success. Successful proposals will enable development and advancement of projects, collection of new data, or analysis of existing data. Proposals should focus on work that you will be leading, but work that takes place in the context of broader partnerships is also acceptable. The work funded under this program should form part of the foundation that results in eventual significant extramural funding.

**Proposals will be evaluated based on:**

- 1) Quality of proposal and research design over funding period;
- 2) Potential impact of the research;
- 3) Potential for the seed funding and pilot research to lead to future extramural funding; and
- 4) Impact of funding on faculty member's program development.

**How to Apply:** To apply for this award, please submit the requested materials here: <https://researchtools.ifas.ufl.edu/ecs> by **October 17**. The information requested includes:

- Online cover sheet:
  - a. Project title
  - b. Faculty information (name, unit, email, phone number, and budgeted appointment split)
  - c. Experiment Station (REEport) Project – Hatch, Multi-state or McIntire-Stennis – title and number
  - d. RCR Training status (completion of federal Responsible Conduct of Research training; if not, you must complete training [here](#) before submission)
  - e. Abstract (general audience abstract limited to 200 words)
  
- Attached PDF narrative with the following information (maximum 5 pages with one inch margins on all sides, at least 11 point font including tables and figures, but not including literature cited):
  - a. *Title, PI name and unit, and collaborator name and unit* if applicable
  - b. *Introduction:* An overview of the pertinent literature, justification, and relevance of the project to the faculty member's broader research program and goals
  - c. *Expected impact:* A description of the potential impacts to stakeholders and to the faculty member's research program
  - d. *Methodology:* A description of the proposed research plan, objectives, hypotheses to be tested, methods, and the research timeline
  - e. *Extramural funding strategy:* A summary of specific sponsor(s) and program(s) that will be targeted for funding (include web links and targeted program areas if possible) using the data collected through this grant, and the anticipated time of submission
  - f. *Budget and budget justification*
  - g. *Literature cited* (does not count toward the page limit)

**Proposal Evaluation:** Proposals will be evaluated by a faculty panel using the criteria listed above. Proposals not adhering to the specified format or not submitted by **Monday, October 17, 2017** will not be considered. The panel will make recommendations for funding to the Dean for Research, who will be responsible for final award decisions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Sherry Larkin ([slarkin@ufl.edu](mailto:slarkin@ufl.edu)) or Cassie Sexson ([cjlema@ufl.edu](mailto:cjlema@ufl.edu)) or call us at 352-392-1784.