Internal Funding Opportunities

Focus: Targeted Proposal Teams (TPT)

Henry Fadamiro & Gerianne Alexander
TAMU RESEARCH ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2030)

Supporting the university’s mission and goals, the Division of Research aims to strategically strengthen the research enterprise, as captured by our mission statement:

The DOR will advance and strengthen all aspects of the research enterprise by implementing an enhanced, integrated, and strategic approach to:

- Capitalize on our research strengths to deliver solutions to serve the public good.
  - Grow our resources, infrastructure, data, and technology.
  - Align opportunities with potential collaborators and research teams.
  - Support interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary collaborations to advance research.
  - Increase federal, state, and private funding.
  - Provide effective research support.
- Build capacity through collaborations and strategic investments.
- Promote creativity and innovation, while ensuring the highest standards of research integrity.
- Increase communication and enhance visibility with stakeholders to promote the value of research.

**DOR Internal Funding Opportunities are designed to support highlighted goals.**
- **Arts & Humanities Fellowship Program** – *Gerianne Alexander*
  - 2023: 6 awards ($90K total)
  - 2024: Proposals under review

- **Research Development Fund (RDF)** – *Brendan Roark*

- **Panther RISE Program (PRISE; with PVAMU)** – *Henry Fadamiro*
  - 2023: 15 awards ($600K total)
  - 2024: Proposals under review

- **Advancing Discoveries to Market (ADM)** – *Henry Fadamiro*
  - 2023: 22 awards ($4.85M total)
  - 2024: Proposals under review

- **ASCEND**
  - **Research Leadership Fellowships (RLF)** – *Gerianne Alexander*
    - 2023: 12 awards ($900K total)
    - 2024: In progress
  - **Targeted Proposal Teams** – *Gerianne Alexander & Henry Fadamiro*

[https://vpr.tamu.edu/find-funding/](https://vpr.tamu.edu/find-funding/)
Initiated in 2023 as part of ASCEND.

$5M investment annually.

**Purpose:** To build and facilitate teams for the purpose of submitting large interdisciplinary proposals with strong potential to make an indelible mark on knowledge that can address a societal challenge.

Proposals from interdisciplinary teams must target a large (> $5M) extramural proposal addressing a societal problem

2023: 9 awards ($4.75M total).

Proposal development support provided by RDS; coordinated SRS support.
- TPT deconstructed based on lessons learned and feedback, and to better align program with the needs of the faculty.
  - TPT 2.0 provides seed funding for innovative research and creative ideas in three categories:
    - Collaborative Seed Grants
    - Proposal Planning Grants
    - Grants on the Edge
  - Two calls per year (Fall and Spring).
  - ~25 awards per category per year (based on proposal quality and recommendations of the Review Committee).
Eligibility & Requirements:

- Open to TAMU (including TEES & AgriLife Research) faculty eligible to serve as PI for external funding.
- A proposal must include at least two faculty from diverse disciplines.
- An individual may serve as PI on only one proposal per TPT category.
- Current awardees (PIs) of an active TPT award not eligible to serve as PI.
- Awardees expected to engage with the VPR office and comply with reporting requirements.
Purpose: To increase research and creative capacity by funding teams of interdisciplinary researchers pursuing curiosity-driven, high-risk, high-reward projects in their early stages of development (new/emerging teams).

Funding: Up to $60K over 12 months.
- Personnel, research supplies, project specific travel.

Proposal Evaluation (project narrative limited to 3 pages):
- Intellectual merit, significance, and feasibility of research/creative idea.
- Composition of the proposal team.
- Extramural funding opportunity.
Proposal Planning Grants

- **Purpose:** To support/facilitate interdisciplinary teams that will submit large-scale extramural proposals to a targeted sponsor (established teams).
  - Target extramural awards include program/center/institute grants from NSF, NIH, DOE, etc.; major grants from NEH and other sponsors.
  - Target may vary depending on targeted societal problem.
  - All topics will be considered. Proposal supporting the six (broadly defined) strategic themes identified in the TAMU Research Strategic Plan are encouraged.

- **Funding:** Up to $100K over 12 months.
  - Personnel (to assist with team facilitation), salary/course buyout for PI, data compilation and analysis, team meetings/workshops, travel to external collaborators/sponsor(s).

- **Proposal Evaluation** (project narrative limited to 3 pages):
  - Intellectual merit, significance, and feasibility of research/creative idea.
  - Composition and qualifications of the proposal team.
  - Evidence of pilot data/existing work by team.
  - Broader impacts and relevance of the proposed project to Texas and National priorities.
  - Plans for leveraging extramural funding opportunity.
- **Purpose**: To enhance the competitiveness of previously submitted extramural grant proposals (since 2023) that received competitive rating by a panel/study section but not funded.

- **Funding**: Up to $25,000 (for proposal budgets of $\leq 2$ million) and up to $50,000 (for proposal budgets $>2$ million) over 12 months.
  - Personnel, research supplies, project specific travel, proposal review service.

- **Proposal Evaluation** (project narrative limited to 3 pages):
  - Merit of the research proposed in the unfunded extramural submission (based on scores/rankings and feedback from external review panel or study section)
  - Merit of the proposed improvements (including specific plans and timeline for resubmission of proposal to external sponsor).
  - *Note: Required to resubmit the proposal within 12 months upon award completion.*
## Proposed Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TPT Funding Category</th>
<th>Fall RFP</th>
<th>Spring RFP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Release Date</td>
<td>Submission Deadline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional calls per year?**

Note: Information/Q&A sessions proposed