

Northwestern Center for Engineering Sustainability and Resilience

2019-2020 Seed Funding Call for Proposals

\$300,000 in funds are available for innovative, high-risk, and/or enabling collaborative research seed funding in FY20. It is anticipated that additional seed funding will be available in FY21, FY22, and FY23. Key aspects of the proposed funding mechanism are as follows:

Eligibility and Allowable Costs

- At least one faculty member on each proposal must have at least a 25% paid appointment in McCormick.
- Each faculty member may serve as PI for only one proposal in each call. Faculty members who receive support as PI in one fiscal year will not be eligible to serve as PI for a proposal in the next fiscal year.
- Each faculty member may be included (as a PI or co-PI) in up to two distinct proposals for each call for proposals. Faculty members who receive support as PI in one fiscal year will be eligible to serve as a co-PI for a proposal in the next fiscal year.
- Funding is available in any area of research related to engineering sustainability or resilience, but priority will be given to:
 - Proposals that involve at least two investigators from different departments that bring complementary areas of expertise to the project;
 - Proposals that request support for postdoctoral fellows or graduate students;
 - Projects that are too risky for federal funding;
 - Projects that fit less comfortably into established funding mechanisms (and consequently are viewed skeptically by reviewers);
 - Projects for which preliminary data is necessary before applying for federal funding;
 - Projects for which innovative collaborations are necessary and thus are unlikely to be eligible for federal funding mechanisms;
 - Projects that represent new collaborations between investigators;
- Award amounts for this program will typically be \$60,000 per project.
 - Funds will typically be used for graduate student or postdoc support, materials, supplies, user fees, lab services, and publication fees;
 - Graduate student and/or postdoc support may not exceed a total of 12 months;
 - Funds must be completely expended within 18 months of funding notification with no no-cost extensions allowed;
 - Award funds may not be used for faculty salary, travel, conferences, entertainment of visitors, alcohol, capital equipment, teaching activities or outreach activities (symposia, academic visitors, etc.).
 - Indirect costs are not applicable.
- Direct questions regarding eligibility, research topics, or funding guidelines to center directors Bill Miller (wmmiller@northwestern.edu) or Jennifer Dunn (jennifer.dunn1@northwestern.edu).

Submission Instructions

- The proposal should include the following items only:
 - Cover sheet (see below);
 - 2-page research plan with budget (see below);
 - [NSF style biosketch](#) (see template) for each of the faculty investigators;
 - NSF style biosketch (postdocs) or a resume (graduate students) for the trainee.
- The cover sheet should include the following items;
 - The name(s) and department(s) of the investigator(s);
 - The proposal title;
 - The total funding requested;
 - A one-paragraph, non-technical executive summary of the research goals; the summaries from all proposals submitted will be shared with the donor.
- The 2-page research plan should include the following items:
 - **Scientific Question:** What scientific question is this proposal addressing? Why is it important? What will be learned through the proposed research?
 - **Research Team:** Summarize the expertise that each team member brings to the project. Also, briefly discuss whether/how this represents a new collaboration, an expanded collaboration, and/or a new research direction for an existing collaboration.
 - **Measures of Success:** List ways in which this proposal will (i) affect future research directions for PIs and trainees, (ii) increase the likelihood of obtaining external funding (identify at least one funding agency), and/or (iii) increase Northwestern's external visibility in engineering sustainability and resilience.
 - **Budget:** List trainees that will be supported by this award and for how long, their salaries, other budget requests, and the total funding being requested.
 - **Figures.**
 - **References.**
- Submit the application materials at <https://grants.nubic.northwestern.edu> under *Center for Engineering Sustainability and Resilience Research Support*.
- **The deadline for proposal submission is October 11, 2019 at 5:00 PM CDT.**

Review and Post-Award Requirements

- **By submitting a proposal, each PI agrees to serve as a reviewer** for three (3) proposals in this competition. Any PI who does not submit their reviews will be ineligible for funding.
- Each proposal will be reviewed by three (3) of the submitting PIs in a round-robin system (see [review rubric template](#)); reviewer assignments will be designed to minimize conflicts of interest.
- We expect to make award decisions by November 15.
- Deliverables are expected to include:
 - A one-paragraph, non-technical executive summary of the research accomplishments;
 - A short (2-3 page) final report at the end of the grant describing the research results including a list of resulting submitted/accepted papers and proposals;
 - A poster presentation at the Center for Engineering Sustainability and Resilience annual symposium.