



Request for Proposals: Collaborative Research Catalyst Awards

Key Dates:

RFP Release: February 26, 2025

Information and Q&A Sessions: March 20 and March 24, 2025 (see below for details)

Due Date: May 2, 2025

Presentations to Review Committee: June 9, 3-4pm

Purpose: The Senior Vice President for Health Sciences (SVPHS) Research Unit is soliciting applications for Collaborative Research Catalyst Awards. The purpose of these awards is to catalyze *collaborative* research that will show progress within one year (including meeting pre-specified milestones) and have a *measurable impact* on the University of Utah (UofU) research community within a two-year period. A measurable impact may include (or be a combination of) an application for a large multi-PI program grant, evidence of new research direction such as publications in an area not previously explored by the investigators or novel to the UofU, development of IP or other commercialization pipeline milestones, well-attended community-building events such as seminar series, etc.

Research Scope and Priority: We invite applications from a broad range of science and health-related topics. Priority will be given to proposals that include investigators from different departments and colleges across the University of Utah and in an area of identified programmatic federal funding opportunities (e.g., NIH P or U grants). Topics must be outside currently funded [University of Utah Health Strategic Research Initiatives](#).

Budget: Up to \$100,000 per Award will be granted. Funds must be used within two years and are not renewable and not available for no cost extension or carry forward. Up to \$50K will be available in Year 1 and up to \$50K will be distributed in Year 2 based on meeting selected milestones. Funds may be used to organize collaborative activities such as working groups and mini-symposia; for salaries and fringe benefits of post-doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel; supplies; miscellaneous expenses; and services. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year); travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., travel to research conferences cannot be supported by this grant); consultants (unless specifically justified and under extremely rare circumstances); or office equipment, including computers.

Additional Support for Awardees: Awardees will be provided support from the SVPHS Research Unit's Research Program Development Team and may include: work with Principal Investigators to set and monitor goals and timelines; facilitate team meetings and collaboration activities; serve as a resource to connect team with relevant University of Utah faculty and resources; organize mini-symposia or similar events; identify and provide guidance on relevant funding opportunities; perform strategic analysis of funding landscape; and support development and submission of grant applications.

Eligibility:

- Faculty may only act as the *submitting* applicant on one proposal. Faculty may participate as team members on multiple proposals, but only on one chosen team.
- All Contact PIs must be Associate Professor level or higher tenure-track faculty at the University of Utah Health (School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, College of Health, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy).

Application Instructions: Applications are due on **May 2, 2025**. Please apply online through the online [application portal](#). Please reach out to Bridget Hughes (bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu) with questions or to discuss your idea or application.

Application must be compiled into a single PDF and include:

1. **Lay abstract:** ½ page
2. **Detailed proposal** (3 page maximum, plus references on additional pages) including:
 - a. **Research Strategy:** Please address the following:
 - i. *Value Proposition:* Including significance/innovation, define the value specifically to the University of Utah research portfolio. Does this proposal take advantage of unique resources? Does it connect researchers who wouldn't interact otherwise? Does this launch a totally new area of research exploration? Will this help to carve out a unique niche at the University of Utah to give us a competitive advantage for future funding? How will this effort be unique from other institutions?
 - ii. *Investigators/Resources:* Please list the faculty involved and their roles/responsibilities. Please describe any unique resources that would be leveraged for this proposal. Please describe how this award will catalyze new areas of exploration between these investigators.
 - iii. *Approach:* Please include both scientific approach *and* also plans for collaboration and community-building. Examples of collaboration and community-building activities include, but are not limited to, organizing a themed mini symposium; launching a regular working group or seminar series; inviting external experts to advise on future funding plans; and organizing focused ideation and/or writing retreats.
 - iv. *Long term strategy and sustainability:* Please describe your plan for sustainability to continue this collaborative research forward past the two-year funding period. What is the federal funding landscape in this space? Will there be a center/federal grant submission? If so, please identify the mechanism and timeline of submission. Will there be departmental or college-level support?
 - v. *Timeline and milestones* of proposed activities across two years. Please indicate specific milestones (both science and community-building) that will be met in Year 1 (and will be used to determine allocation of Year 2 funding).
3. **Biographical sketches:** Complete for each member of the Investigator team, NIH-format, not to exceed 5 pages for each.
4. **Budget and Justification.** Use budget template provided. Please budget for collaboration as well as research activities.

Evaluation and Competition Timeline:

Proposals will be reviewed by a research committee to assess the individual application components including innovation, scientific merit, collaboration, and opportunity to create a measurable impact on the University of Utah research mission.

Information and Q&A Sessions:

Thursday, March 20; noon-1pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 926 6252 2157

Passcode: 745162

Monday, March 24, 1-2pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 922 1585 1278

Passcode: 973054

Review Timeline

Date(s)	Action
May 2, 2025	Applications are due
May 7-21, 2025	Initial application review
May 23, 2025	Applicants will be notified if they are selected to advance in the competition
June 9, 3-4pm	Select applicants will present to review committee. A representative from the PI Team must be available to attend this meeting (held on zoom)
July 1, 2025	Applicants will be notified if their proposal was selected to move forward for funding consideration
Sept. 2025 - Jan 2026	Award funding will be transferred

Award Recipient Expectations:

- Use the funds within the two-year award budget period of January 1, 2026-December 31, 2027. Unused funds must be returned to SVPHS Research Unit at the end of the project period. Grant administration is the responsibility of the Principal Investigators.
- Acknowledge support from the funding source(s) in presentations and publications resulting from foundation support.
- Submit annual progress reports when requested.
- Interact regularly with SVPHS Research Unit Program Development Team.

Please contact Bridget Hughes (bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu), Senior Director, Research Program Development with any questions.