



TUFTS CREATE SOLUTIONS: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Seed Grants

for Climate Solutions Research

---

Proposal Due Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 11:59 PM

With support from Tufts University's Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) by way of the Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan (RSSP), CREATE Solutions is pleased to invite seed funding research applications from Tufts faculty.

---

*Please note that this is a call for **seed grants**. A separate call has gone out for publications.*

---

### About Tufts CREATE Solutions

[Tufts CREATE \(Climate, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Technology, and Ecology\) Solutions](#) is an initiative that builds on Tufts' strong research programs in climate, renewable energy, sustainability, agriculture, technology, policy, economics, and ecology. The mission of CREATE Solutions is to develop solutions to the global climate change emergency by fostering transdisciplinary research collaboration across all schools at Tufts. Our research responds to the integrated nature of the technical, environmental, and societal challenges we face. We aim to develop innovative approaches to prevent catastrophic climate change, increase resilience to the climate change already occurring, advance the low-carbon transition, and educate a new generation of leaders who can generate new knowledge and provide solutions.

### About the Seed Grant Call

We invite climate-related seed grant proposals from faculty from all disciplines who seek to start innovative research projects and collect preliminary data necessary to secure extramural funding. Preference will be given to applications that (1) foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and (2) are likely to lead to new research grants from extramural sources. Applications must explicitly address how seed funding brings together faculty across interdisciplinary boundaries and how the seed funding will facilitate efforts to secure new and additional sponsored research grants. Faculty from all stages in their career are encouraged to apply. These funds are seed research funds and cannot support educational efforts (e.g. curriculum development). It is anticipated that multiple grants will be awarded per year.

## Eligibility

Any Tufts faculty member active in scholarship and research with a primary appointment at Tufts University is eligible to apply. Eligible projects may include both new interdisciplinary collaborations and existing interdisciplinary collaborations involving new areas of research.

## Project Period and Budget

**Project Duration:** Up to one year. Selected projects can expect to receive notification of funding by 12/23/2020. Projects must be completed, and all expenditures incurred no later than 12/31/2021, unless formal approval of program period extension is received and approved.

**Budget:** While budget proposals of any amount will be accepted, recommended budgets for seed funding range from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

## Review Criteria

- Intellectual merit. The proposed study must be innovative and original in order to advance our knowledge in the CREATE Solutions research area.
- Qualifications of the principle investigators and the rest of the team (including post-doctoral fellows and graduate & undergraduate students).
- Degree of research collaboration across traditional disciplines.
- Likelihood that the seed grant will lead to new research grants from extramural sources.
- Degree of innovation and originality (within academic field and/or Tufts community).
- The degree to which the project raises the reputation of Tufts University as a leader in developing solutions that address climate-related concerns.
- Clarity of goals and statement of need.
- Feasibility of timeline.
- Feasibility of activities within departmental and/or school framework.
- Appropriateness of budget allocations.
- Use of evaluation methods for assessing outcomes and impact, where relevant.

## Award Conditions

Funds may be used to support reasonable and necessary direct costs to carry out the project. Deviations from the proposed expenditures must be approved by the proposal review committee. The principal investigator will be financially responsible for managing the award. Funds will be disbursed to the School,

department, or center with which the lead principal investigator is primarily affiliated.

Funds can only be used for the activities or experiments described in the proposal, although no-cost extensions and/or re-budgeting with appropriate justification may be requested.

Expenditures for faculty, researcher, and student salaries (either summer or academic year) are permitted according to school unit policies and appropriate approval for each collaborator. Fringe benefits charges for personnel should be included in preparing the budget. Student pay during the summer will be subject to the applicable rate for fringe benefits and this cost should be included in the budget. Student pay during the academic year (September – May) is not subject to fringe benefits.

Generally, the budget *cannot* be used to pay for:

- Indirect costs and overhead
- Computers
- Student Health Insurance
- Alcohol

Recipients are required to comply with all relevant Tufts policies in relation to [allowable expenses](#). The proposal review committee maintains the right to deny any budget item it deems unallowable. Equipment purchases are discouraged, but will be considered on an ad hoc basis. Proposed budgets may be subject to modifications prior to award. Funds awarded are subject to relevant University, state and federal guidelines. Please refer to the [Tufts IP Policy](#) for questions regarding intellectual property. If you are conducting research with human subjects, you must undergo [IRB review](#).

## Reporting Requirements

By 6 months after grant start date, grant recipients must make a brief presentation to the CREATE Solutions Faculty Research Leadership Team, which is intended to convey progress and allow for feedback on the project's continuation, completion, and dissemination.

By 30 days after grant end date, grant recipients must provide to the CREATE Solutions Faculty Research Leadership Team a final report of no longer than five single-spaced pages accompanied by other relevant products or evidence of the completion of the funded activity.

The final summary report should:

- describe the work that was accomplished;
- describe the outcomes/impact of the collaboration;
- describe any plans for ongoing collaboration beyond the funded project;
- provide a final accounting of budget expenses;
- identify specific proposal(s) submitted to external sponsor(s) as a result of the grant (if applicable); and
- describe any significant deviation from, or extensions to, the project described in the original proposal.

## Proposal Requirements and Submission

**Deadline for Submission:** Thursday, December 17, 2020, 11:59 PM

**Submission:** By email to [createsolutions@tufts.edu](mailto:createsolutions@tufts.edu)

**Content:** Proposals must include the following sections in Word or PDF format, with the Budget Form attached as a writable Excel file:

- I. **Proposal Document** (please use the [template provided](#))
  - a. **Cover Page**
  - b. **Project Description** (no more than two single-spaced pages). Describe the proposed project including goals, activities or experiments, expected outcomes, team members, and a timeline. Describe how the project will lead to the potential for the multidisciplinary team to develop new scholarship or further collaboration, including but not limited to an assessment of the potential for subsequent funding.
  - c. **Budget Justification** (no more than one single-spaced page). Describe each budget item, any in-kind contributions to the project from any other grant, school, or department, and any previous funding provided by the OVPR for this or related projects.
- II. **Budget Form** (please use the [template provided](#))
- III. **CVs.** Include a CV for each significant collaborator

**Review Process:** The CREATE Solutions Faculty Research Leadership Team will serve as the review committee evaluating submitted proposals and expects to make funding decisions by December 23, 2020. Any Faculty Research Leadership Team member who submits a proposal will recuse themselves from the review of that proposal and identify another relevant faculty member to serve as an evaluator. For questions or to submit a proposal, please contact [createsolutions@tufts.edu](mailto:createsolutions@tufts.edu).