

OFFICE OF RESEARCH CORE ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Background and Purpose

The UC Office of Research (OoR) understands that sustaining and refreshing core facilities is critical for future success of the research enterprise. As part of the **Research2030** program strategy to **Invest for Impact** and **Invest in Success**, we are issuing this core development opportunity. For this internal grant program, a research core facility is defined to be inclusive of shared research facilities with government approved recharge rates. This program offers funding support to existing research core facilities to update equipment or software to expand their capabilities and impact to support current customers and to attract new customers. Fund can also be requested to purchase reagents to test and validate new services that could be offered to expand the customer base.

Funding Priorities, Eligibility, and Process

- The program is open to research cores in all UC Colleges except for the College of Medicine.
- The key priorities will include:
 1. Equipment/software that increases use of a facility by a broader range of funded UC investigators and/or external parties.
 2. Evidence that a lack of investment will result in loss of customer base and/or the ability to support grant-funded research projects.
 3. Resources for reagents to develop and validate a new or evolving service to expand or maintain paying customers.
- Software/hardware upgrades to meet UCIT network requirements are eligible for this award provided that the instrumentation involved has a significant customer base willing to pay for services to justify the investment.
- Matching funds from other sources (college, department) will be viewed favorably in the application.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts who will make recommendations for funding to the Vice President for Research.
- The number of proposals funded will be a function of funds available and the number of meritorious, qualified applications received.
- Awards of up to \$40,000 are available, but requests should be limited to the minimal amount needed so that the impact of the overall funding pool can be maximized.
- Funds cannot be used for faculty/staff salaries or travel.
- Applications are limited to one proposal per core facility.
- Letters of support from customers indicating scope of use (including dollars to be spent) for the new or upgraded services will enhance the justification of the institutional support.

Applications must be submitted via email to the Office of Research with the subject “core enhancement grant” by 5:00 pm on February 23, 2022. Email: research@mail.uc.edu.

Application Materials

The following documentation must be submitted with the application:

- A description of the proposed project and justification on how this investment significantly enhances the core in terms of the funding priorities given above and the scope of investigators who will be supported by the upgrade. (Do not exceed 2 pages)
- An itemized budget and budget justification (Do not exceed 1 page)
- Customer letters of support can be included as an appendix to support the justification narrative. A compendium of short emails from funded investigators indicating their expected use (dollars to be spent) in the core based on the upgrades is preferred over formal letters of support.

Deliverables

Awardees will provide an update via a progress report to the OOR internal grant portal by September 30, 2022 with the initial impact on the core facility. A more detailed report will be due June 30, 2023 summarizing the use and return on investment (ROI). The ROI analysis should consider the following: increased usage of the facility, new proposals, and collaborations generated, and all forms of scholarly activity that are the direct result of the investment.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Greis at greiskd@ucmail.uc.edu; 513-558-7102.