The University of Cincinnati
Office of the Vice President for Research
Major Proposal Support Program
Request for Applications

KEY DATES
RFA released December 1, 2020
Application Deadline: January 28, 2021, 5:00 pm EST
Awardees Announced: February 15, 2021
Proposal Draft Deadline: June 1, 2021, 5:00 pm EST
Review/Revision Period: (Staggered: July 1, 2021 - December 23, 2021)

Program Information
As part of UC's **Research2030** "Invest to Advance" strategic plan, we seek to support and enhance the competitiveness of our research enterprise for major funding opportunities. As a result, the Office of the Vice President for Research is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 RFA for the *inaugural* Major Proposal Support Program, which will provide internal and external expert support for UC faculty who are targeting major, multi-year, competitive and prestigious funding opportunities.* Awardees will receive up to two waves of pre-submission review and editing of full proposals.

Services include project management; expert coaching on program officer outreach and funder expectations; and proposal support in the form of hands-on review and revision services. Research, tenured and tenure-track faculty or staff (with at least 80% FTE) are eligible to apply. Awardees will be encouraged to begin drafting proposals upon receiving and accepting the award, however, this program is targeting external funding opportunity submission dates that fall within the window of **August 15, 2021 through February 1, 2022.**

*The Office of Research appreciates the fact that what is considered a 'major, highly competitive' opportunity varies from field to field. Our aim is to increase competitiveness of UC faculty for significant external funding across all STEMM and AHSS disciplines.

Total Awardees: Depending on the number and quality of applications received, up to 6 applications will be selected for proposal development support

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include UC's research, tenured and tenure-track faculty or staff members with at least an 80% FTE appointment, with UC being the primary appointment.
- Only one application per eligible faculty member is allowed. There are no limits to the numbers of applicants per unit or college.
- As this is the inaugural offering of this program, otherwise eligible faculty who received past URC and/or Office of Research funding may apply. Such previously funded applicants must have met all requirements of former awards within budget and timeframe AND the proposed area of research, scholarship or creative activities may not duplicate that previously supported by a former award. Note: such previous awardees will be required to provide data/evidence that the previously funded project was successful and impactful if invited to the finalist stage for this program.
- Otherwise eligible faculty with external funding may apply.
- External funding opportunities that are limited submission competitions are ineligible for support from this program.

Applications will be submitted online via *Wisehive*, our internal program software. When the application is available, the link will be posted on https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, M-number, college, department/unit, and proposal title within the *Wisehive* application portal prior to uploading the required pdf files.

All documents must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout. All materials below **must** be submitted via the requested PDF files for consideration.

1. **Major Proposal Concept and Funding Target Document** (5 page maximum). Provide a description of the major proposal concept and the desired funding target (including submission deadline). Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. Your document must include the information below in the order listed:
    - **External Funding Opportunity including submission deadline(s).** Please provide a complete description of the external funding opportunity along with the targeted submission deadline. Additional submission deadlines can be included as appropriate. If this funding opportunity is fully described in an external RFA, please upload a separate pdf copy of that RFA as noted below. If the 2021-2022 submission deadline has not been finalized by the sponsor, applicants can include information from the prior/current year funding announcement as justification for pursuit of the opportunity. Note: only a single funding opportunity should be described in detail here. If additional funding opportunities could be pursued, those can be listed but the applicant

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will be responsible for participating in the proposal development activities for the detailed funding opportunity listed.

- **Proposed Submission.** Describe broadly the outline of your proposed submission, speaking to why it is responsive to this funding opportunity, and provide sufficient background and preliminary data to demonstrate that a competitive submission is likely. If you are proposing a resubmission that was not funded previously, please include a copy of prior reviews as a pdf file as noted below AND address in that section how your submission is responsive to those prior reviews.

- **Project Leadership**. Project leaders, principal investigators and co-investigators should be listed and a CV for all listed leaders, PIs or co-Investigators should be included as a single PDF as noted below. Do NOT include a comprehensive listing of all team personnel or senior investigators – only the leaders of the proposal/research activities should be described here. Those team leaders listed here will be responsible for participating in all proposal development activities. Describe why this is the best team to lead the proposed research. If a member or members of the leadership team are from outside of UC, describe why they are more appropriate than someone from UC.

- **Strategic Alignment.** Describe how this research aligns with unit/department, college or **Research2030/Next Lives Here** goals. Describe any particular strengths of UC historically or emerging that would support success in this endeavor. Describe any unique infrastructure or capabilities at UC that would enhance the competitiveness of this proposal. If appropriate, describe any prior internal funding that generated preliminary data or useful results that are supporting this request.

- **Proposal Development Timeline.** Provide a draft timeline of the proposal development/edit/review process that aligns with the time-frame for this award and with the targeted submission date. Note any special considerations in proposal development that need to be addressed (e.g., cost-share, external letters of support, sub-awards, etc.)

2. **Bibliography/References Cited** (2 page maximum). Provide the full reference list of any citations included in the Major Proposal Concept and Target document.

3. **Biographical Sketch/CV** (3 page maximum per project leader, PI or co-Investigator – all should be combined into single PDF for upload.)

4. **External Funding** (as appropriate)

5. **Prior Reviews and Proposed Responses to Reviews** (as appropriate)

Review Criteria:

- Funding Opportunity
  - Does the applicant justify why the targeted funding opportunity meets the qualifications for this award?
  - Does this funding opportunity provide the possibility for enhancing UC's reputation?
- Proposed Submission
  - Does the applicant make a compelling case for a competitive submission?
  - Does the applicant sufficiently describe the competitive landscape and speak to their submission's unique strengths?
  - Does the applicant provide strong and relevant preliminary results/data?
- Suitability of the project team to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Strategic alignment
  - Does the applicant adequately and accurately describe alignment with UC goals?
  - Does UC possess unique infrastructure or capabilities that would enhance the competitiveness of this proposal?
- Is the Proposal Development Timeline realistic, feasible and aligned with this award period?
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFA and the Submission Portal.

The Office of Research will be hosting a zoom meeting (to discuss the opportunity, RFA details (e.g., application materials, LOI components and review criteria) and answering applicant questions on **December 3, 2020 at 12:00 noon**. Interested applicants to this program are encouraged, but not required, to attend this meeting. Registration details are available https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

QUESTIONS? Email research@uc.edu