

The University of Cincinnati Office of Research Community-Engaged Research Grants Program

Up to \$25,000 in project support can be requested

Program Overview

Building on the University of Cincinnati's [Research2030](#) priorities for community impact, the Office of Research Community-Engaged Research Grants program supports UC faculty doing research in partnership with organizations or residents to collaboratively address locally identified priorities. These grants support pilot research that is co-developed and collaboratively implemented, while also advancing rigorous scholarly inquiry. The primary goal of the program is to strengthen community-academic partnerships and generate preliminary data that position teams to be competitive for external funding. Projects funded through this program are expected to demonstrate shared decision-making, mutual benefit, and clear pathways to both community impact and future extramural support.

Funding of Community-Engaged Research Grants will be up to \$25,000. Applicants are encouraged to request budgets appropriate to their proposed activities rather than the maximum award amount. The project period can range from 12-18 months. The number of awards is dependent on available funding.

Key Dates

RFA Released: February 6, 2026

Application Deadline: March 6, 2026 5:00 pm ET

Grantees Announced: Week of April 6, 2026 (*anticipated*)

Award Period: can start no later than June 30, 2026

Eligibility & Expectations

- Individual faculty or teams of faculty may apply. For teams, a Faculty Lead must be identified.
- The Faculty Lead must be a UC faculty member with at least an 80% FTE appointment.
- Faculty holding a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA) are eligible to contribute effort to a team but may not be the Faculty Lead.
- Faculty at all stages in their career are eligible and encouraged to apply.
- Faculty in all disciplines are encouraged to apply.
- As a public research university, UC is committed to doing research that has a positive impact on the Greater Cincinnati region. All proposals must have a community partner from the Greater Cincinnati region. Note that a letter of collaboration is required in the application.

Application Submission

Applicants must submit applications via e-form. When the form is ready to accept applications, the live link to apply will be posted on the tile for the Community-Engaged Research Grants program located at: <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

Applicants are expected to adhere to the guidelines. Applications that do not adhere to program guidelines may not be reviewed.

Application Information Required

The faculty lead must provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, [ORCID](#), college, department/unit.

All proposals should be written for a general university audience in terms readily understood by those who are not experts in the field. Avoid jargon, acronyms, or other technical terminology.

The application should contain the following information and will be submitted as a form.

- **Project Title**
- **Faculty Lead:** Name, title, college, and department of the lead UC faculty applicant.
- **Internal and Affiliate Collaborators:** Names, titles, colleges, and departments of UC-based or affiliated collaborators.
- **External Partners:** Names, titles, and organizational affiliations of community organizations and/or community members participating as research partners.
- **Community-Identified Need or Opportunity (1,500 characters maximum):** Describe the need or opportunity identified by the partnering organization(s) or residents and its relevance to the proposed project.
- **Approach (3,000 characters maximum):** Describe the proposed research approach, including key methods and activities, and how the approach reflects collaborative, community-engaged research practices.
- **Community–Academic Partnership Overview (3,000 characters maximum):** Describe the partnership structure, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member. Clearly explain how community partners share decision-making across the research process (e.g., research questions, design, data collection, interpretation, dissemination).
- **Anticipated Outcomes (1,500 characters maximum):** Describe the expected outcomes of the project for both partnering organization(s)/residents and scholarly advancement.
- **Project Sustainability and Future Funding Plan (1,500 characters maximum):** Describe how the partnership and project will be sustained beyond the grant period. Include specific external funding mechanisms or sponsors you plan to pursue and/or how the project will lead to future scholarly products or activities.
- **Project Period:** Include an anticipated start and end date. The start date can be no later than June 30, 2026. The award period must be 12-18 months.

- **Project Budget:** Itemized budget with a maximum request of **\$25,000**. Applicants are encouraged to request budgets appropriate to their proposed activities rather than the maximum award amount.
- **Budget Justification:** Narrative justification describing how requested funds will support the proposed activities and partnership.
- **Letter of Collaboration:** Applications must include a letter of collaboration from the community partner that describes the partner's connection to the project, why the partnership is a good fit, and the partner's interest in and anticipated benefits from participating in the research.
- **Supplemental Materials (optional):** Applicants may provide supplementary materials, such as figures, media files, websites, and/or external links to support the written application. All materials must be combined into one document.

Allowable Costs

The types of allowable costs supported by this program can be found at: [Office of Research Internal Funding Budget Guidance](#).

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel using the following criteria:

- Alignment with Community-Engaged Research Goals
- Quality of the Research Approach
- Strength and Equity of the Community–Academic Partnership
- Anticipated Outcomes and Impact
- Sustainability and Future Funding Potential
- Budget Appropriateness and Justification

Review & Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by a team assembled by the Office of Research. All applicants will receive written feedback on their application. We intend to notify applicants of the outcome by mid-April.

Award Conditions

- All related work and activities resulting from the internally funded research efforts must acknowledge “University of Cincinnati, Office of Research, (and the name of the particular internal program)” as the research funding source.
- Awardees must submit a final “impact” report that describes project outcomes, deliverables and impacts upon completion of the project at the end of the funding term.
- Awardees agree to serve as a reviewer for this and other UC Office of Research internal funding programs for two years following the date of award.

QUESTIONS? Contact research@uc.edu