Food Innovation Center (FIC) 2011 Request for Proposals

This second annual FIC Seed Grant Competition will fund new interdisciplinary food collaborations. Proposal ideas must be innovative, create value, and lead to competitive extramural grants. Proposals that include new ideas and partnerships between STEM\(^1\) experts and those in business, social science, arts, or humanities are especially encouraged. We seek team approaches that improve lives through adequate, safe, health-promoting food. Teams must have at least two Center faculty members from two OSU colleges. Non-member collaborators are welcome in a non-PI role.

**Target Awards:** Developing innovative solutions to some of the world’s most vexing problems requires collaboration beyond STEM disciplines.\(^2\) Thus we reserve up to four target awards for projects that achieve this. For example, projects that partner business, management, economics, law, public policy, arts, humanities, or other social or behavioral sciences with STEM are sought. For instance, a social scientist collaborates with a nutritionist to investigate a public policy problem. Or, an economist joins with a crop scientist and public health expert to study the impact of locally grown food. STEM-only projects, e.g., a food scientist with a microbiologist, will be considered in this funding round but do not qualify for a target award. Teams must indicate if applying for a target award.

**Dates:**
- This RFP released: March 28, 2011
- Proposal deadline: **May 9, 2011 at 5 PM**
- Award notice: June 10, 2011
- Earliest start: July 1, 2011

**Eligibility:**
- Any FIC faculty member as of May 9, 2011, may be a PI. Center members are listed at [http://fic.osu.edu/members](http://fic.osu.edu/members).
- Teams must have at least two FIC faculty members, including PI, from two different colleges based on tenure initiating unit (TIU).
- Teams may include Center associate members and non-Center members. Faculty members from branch campuses are welcome to participate.
- You may serve as PI in only one but may participate in up to three proposals this year.
- The first author is the PI, and all others are collaborators. The designations of Co-PI and Co-Investigator are ignored.
- Prior funded FIC ideas receive lower priority.
- Teams may revise and resubmit proposals previously unfunded by FIC.
- New interdisciplinary research is favored while ongoing projects are not.

**Budget:** Funding may not exceed $25,000 in direct costs for one year. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries or fringe costs. Travel essential to research is allowed, while meeting travel is not. Funds may be expended July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. FIC believes 10 high quality awards will be made, including up to four target awards.

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\(^1\) STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

\(^2\) Colleges with primarily STEM expertise: Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Vet Med. Colleges with primarily other expertise: Business, Glenn, Law, and Social Work. Arts & Sciences, EHE, FAES, and others may span categories. Faculty expertise is most important in determining whether a project qualifies for a target award.
Requirements, any unchecked box disqualifies:

- Principal investigator plus at least one collaborator are FIC faculty members before May 9, 2011.
- Center faculty members are from two or more colleges.
- Proposal was received by fic@osu.edu by 5 PM on May 9, 2011.

Reviewer score sheet, based on 100 total points:

- /15 Well-written, well-justified project.
- /15 Likely to be accomplished within the proposed time and budget.
- /20 Plan and timeline for extramural funding is feasible.
- /20 Project represents either or both a new collaboration or a new, not yet funded research idea.
- /30 For general pool: Innovative project that advances center goals. For target awards: Innovative project that connects STEM research with other disciplines.

Review process: Proposals will be peer reviewed by FIC members, so let us know if you wish to help. Directors have final funding authority. Review comments but not identities will be shared with applicants. Applicants will be notified by June 10, 2011, with funds available July 1, 2011.

Submission instructions: Submit electronically to Carolee Barber, Executive Manager, at fic@osu.edu no later than May 9, 2011, by 5 PM ET. Applications received late will be queued for future competitions. Watch for confirmation that your proposal was received.

Three page application: Items one through nine below are limited to a maximum of three letter-sized pages: 11 point font, single spaced, with 1 inch margins.

1. Title
2. PI (Principal Investigator) and collaborator’s names, email, phone, academic units and colleges; include organization for optional external partners.
3. Target Award? Yes or No. If yes, state in a few sentences why project qualifies as such.
4. Lay abstract of up to 250 words.
5. Background or hypothesis.
6. How does the work advance center goals? What is novel and innovative?
7. Any preliminary data or current status.
8. Likely methods and expected results.
9. Strategies for securing external support (indicate specific programs, grants, or sponsors).

Budget is not part of the three-page limit but is required. Should fit on one letter-sized page, 11 point font, single spaced, 1 inch margins. Combine with three pages above into a single Word or PDF file.

- Itemize and justify costs, e.g., indicate expenses by team member.
- Matching or cost share is not required.

Appendices, references, and other supporting information. Submit as a single file, separate from the three page application and budget. Do not send multiple files for the information below.

1. Cited references, unpublished works, or internet links.
2. Short biosketches and current support for all team members. NIH, NSF or USDA forms are fine.
3. (Optional) Letters from partnering organizations, other attachments.

Awardee responsibilities: Research complies with all regulations including IRB or IACUC. A summary report of results and plans for continued funding will be required within 30 days of the conclusion of the project. Failure to submit will disqualify the team from future competitions.

Questions? Contact Carolee Barber at 614-292-0229 or fic@osu.edu