Food Innovation Center (FIC) 2013 Seed Grants  

Due March 4, 2013

Our fourth annual FIC Seed Grant Competition supports the university-wide priority of food discovery. Ohio State targets three discovery themes to shape our future research. These themes—health and wellness, food production and security, and energy and environment—are articulated by the Trustees, the Provost, and in many of our colleges’ strategic plans. Our Food Innovation Center brings unique broad-based expertise to these themes as every Ohio State college has membership in this center. Seed grant proposal ideas must be innovative, create value, and lead to competitive extramural grants. We seek new team research approaches in food discovery consistent with our mission. In addition to welcoming collaborative STEM projects regarding food or nutrition, FIC encourages proposals that engage experts from business, social sciences, arts, or humanities. Teams must have at least two full members of FIC from two OSU colleges. Interactions with external partners such as industry, government, or non-profit organizations are valued, as is research on the optimization of commercialization of food discoveries. FIC respects the confidentiality of any proprietary work with special instructions on page 2.

Dates
- RFP announced: January 23, 2013
- Proposal deadline: March 4, 2013 at 5 PM
- Award notice: March 29, 2013
- Earliest start: April 15, 2013

Budget: Up to $25,000 in direct costs for one year per award. As many as 10 high quality projects may be funded. No faculty salaries, faculty fringe benefits, or capital equipment allowed. Travel essential to research is permitted, while conference travel is not. Funds may be expended April 15, 2013–April 14, 2014. Multi-year projects are not sought.

Eligibility:
- Any FIC full member as of March 4, 2013, must be PI.
- Teams must have at least two FIC full members, including PI, from two different colleges based on tenure initiating unit (TIU). Full member status is defined in the membership guidelines.
- Teams may include FIC associate members and external partners.
- All OSU team members should join FIC at http://fic.osu.edu/members/apply before applying.
- 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-I are ignored.
- Teams may revise and resubmit proposals previously unfunded by FIC. Those who received FIC funding previously are welcome to apply if submitting a new idea or building on a Team Award. Ideas already granted more than $2,500 by FIC receive lower priority.
- New cross-college research is favored while ongoing projects are not.
- Ineligible, late, or incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

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1 Definition of new: Projects moving in a fresh direction (e.g., new line of investigation, new methods) with no more than $2,500 in current support. The program is not intended as bridge funding for work in progress or to supplement existing grants. Applicants should explain the relationship to submitted or funded proposals and what is uniquely achievable through these FIC funds.
Requirements; please note that any unchecked box disqualifies:

- Principal investigator plus at least one collaborator are full FIC members before deadline.
- Full members are from two or more colleges based on TIU.
- Proposal was received by fic@osu.edu by 5 PM Eastern on March 4, 2013.

Scoresheet used by reviewers. Proposals will be peer reviewed by FIC members and directors.

- /30 Significant and innovative project that advances the FIC mission.
- /20 New multi-college collaborative approach sufficiently distinct from ongoing activities and funding of team members.
- /20 Plan and timeline for extramural funding is feasible.
- /15 Well-written, well-justified project.
- /15 Likely to be accomplished within the proposed time and budget.

To apply, submit to fic@osu.edu the following by March 4, 2013, 5 PM. Watch for confirmation that your proposal was received. All documents should be letter-sized pages, 11 or 12 point font, single spaced, with 1 inch margins, in Word or PDF. Confidentiality: Please indicate trade secret or confidential material in red-colored text, with all other text in black. Red text will not be seen by committee reviewers, not appear in reports, not be copied nor sent to anyone other than FIC directors and staff.

Three-page core proposal: Items one through nine below are limited to a maximum of three pages.

1. Title.
2. PI and collaborator(s) names, email, phone, academic units and colleges; include organization for optional external partners. Specify roles and responsibilities for each team member.
3. Lay abstract of up to 250 words.
4. Background or hypothesis.
5. Significance, innovation, and novelty.
   A. How does the work advance the FIC mission?
   B. What is novel and innovative?
   C. What will these funds allow you to accomplish that cannot otherwise be achieved?
   D. What is the relationship with submitted or funded proposals?
6. Preliminary data or current status.
7. Likely methods and expected results.
8. Timeline and deliverables.
9. Strategies for securing external support and indicate specific programs, grants, or sponsors.

Budget (up to one page, not part of three-page limit) Combine with three core pages into a single Word or PDF file. Matching or cost share is not required.

- Itemize and justify costs via footnotes or budget narrative.
- Clearly indicate amount for each collaborator.

Appendices: Combine all into a single file, separate from the three-page core and the budget.

1. References.
2. Biosketches and current and pending support for all team members. Please follow NIH, NSF, or USDA style (USDA biosketch and support).
3. Optional letters from partnering organizations, other attachments.

Awardee responsibilities: Research complies with all regulations including IRB or IACUC. A report of results and plans for continued funding is due within 30 days of project end. This report helps members qualify for future competitions, and conversely, inadequate reports make future support difficult.

Questions? Contact Alex Barkley at 614-292-0252 or fic@osu.edu. Good luck to your team.