Institutes of Energy and the Environment
Seed Grant Program

2023

https://iee.psu.edu/funding/seed-grant-program/2023

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Seven University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Institutes

- Clinical and Translational Science Institute
- Institute for Computational and Data Science
- Materials Research Institute
- Huck Institutes for the Life Sciences
- Institutes of Energy and the Environment
- Cancer Institute
- Social Science Research Institute
The mission of the Institutes of Energy and the Environment is to foster and facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration to positively impact important energy and environmental challenges.

Translating Data into Knowledge and Impact

DATA

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KNOWLEDGE

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IMPACT

- Climate & Ecosystems Change
- Health & Environment
- Integrated Energy Systems
- Urban Systems
- Water & Biogeochemical Cycles
IEE Seed Grant Distribution

- Prior year awards are documented online at [https://iee.psu.edu/funding/iee-seed-grant-program](https://iee.psu.edu/funding/iee-seed-grant-program)
- Collaborations have connected researchers from 40+ departments throughout the Commonwealth
- Principal Investigators (PI) represent 18 colleges and campuses throughout the Commonwealth

University Park
- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Arts and Architecture
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Health and Human Development
- College of Liberal Arts
- Eberly College of Science
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Penn State Law

Commonwealth Campuses
- Penn State Abington
- Penn State Altoona
- Penn State Berks
- Penn State Dickinson School of Law
- Penn State Dubois
- Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- Penn State Harrisburg
- Penn State Hazleton
- Penn State College of Medicine
2023 Program Funding

- Funding levels
  - Up to **$30,000** for multi-colleges and/or multi-campus collaborations
  - Up to **$15,000** for two or more faculty with different disciplinary expertise from a single college (University Park) or single Commonwealth Campus
  - Up to **$5,000** for single investigator proposals

- Award period: April 2023 - June 30, 2024
Preferred Activities for Funding

• Develop new interdisciplinary research teams and position them for substantial external funding success

• Pursue novel research in IEE’s research themes, especially high-risk proof of concept projects and in a way that addresses questions of equity and environmental justice

• Promote research development and mentorship between junior and senior faculty
Seed Grant Eligibility

- All Penn State faculty members (tenured, tenure track, and fixed term) holding an appointment of half-time or more at any Penn State campus
- Penn State researchers, students, and staff may be funded collaborators
- External partners may be included as collaborators, but may not receive funding
- Multiple investigators are expected but a single PI is responsible

- Investigators may serve as PI on only one proposal, but may collaborate on more than one
- New investigators will be given preference over previous grantees
- PIs awarded in 2022 are ineligible to act as PI, but may serve as member of a project team
# Allowable and Disallowable Expenses

## Allowable Expenses

- Graduate and undergraduate student support
- Instrumentation fees and sample analysis to collect preliminary data
- Equipment, supplies, and participant payments
- Travel associated with the conduct of or reporting/presenting on seed grant research (PSU participants only)
- Hosting a research planning meeting for an interdisciplinary team
- Planning and hosting conferences and symposia
- Funding for data conversion technology and wages to support data conversion

## Disallowable Expenses

- Single college/campus funding, even with faculty from several departments, is capped at $15,000; single investigator capped at $5,000.
- Regular appointment, summer, or supplemental salary support for faculty
- Postdoc salary
- Travel support to attend conferences
- Subcontracts to entities outside of Penn State
# Important Seed Grant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 28, 2022</td>
<td>Electronic submission of proposals due via Infoready: <a href="https://psu.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1885348">https://psu.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1885348</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2023</td>
<td>Funding decisions announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2023</td>
<td>Grant funds made available and must be expended by June 30, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30, 2024</td>
<td>Final report due</td>
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Submission Instructions

- Proposals due by **5:00 PM on November 28, 2022**
- Electronic proposal submission required to Infoready site
- Proposal limited to a 2-page project description and additional pages for an appendix
- **NOTE:** There is no preproposal stage. The two-page project description shall clearly address all the review criteria.
- Proposal format:
  - Size 12 font
  - Left aligned with 1-inch margins
  - PDF document
- Project abstract-separate page (understandable by an interdisciplinary audience, see criteria)
- 2-page project description must include:
  - Title of project
  - PI and co-PI's names including college, department and/or campus
  - Short description of how this project will leverage seed funding
  - Nature of collaboration (new/existing; mentorship opportunities)
  - Total funding to be requested, including brief budget justification
- Appendix shall include:
  - A list of all collaborators, their colleges and/or departments
  - The name and email of the department financial contact to facilitate the transfer of funds if awarded
  - 1-page or 2-page resumes for the PI and all co-PIs
Review Criteria

1. **Intellectual Merit**
   - Creativity and innovation
   - Significance of goals and results
   - Soundness or research plan

2. **Potential for Impact**
   - Positive impact in the intended field
   - Potential for external funding

3. **Collaborative Nature**
   - Interdisciplinary focus
   - Potential to develop new collaborations and mentorships
   - Collaborations across colleges
Reviewers will score the review criteria on a scale from 1-5.

Proposals will be reviewed on the following weighted basis: 40% Intellectual Merit, 30% collaborative potential, and 30% potential for impact.

Also, we will provide an overall separate score based on same 1 to 5 criteria.

- **5** = Excellent for all criteria in this category
- **4** = Very good response to the criteria in this category
- **3** = Good response to the criteria in this category
- **2** = Fair response to the criteria in this category but more info needed
- **1** = Limited information provided for this category
Questions?

- Visit [https://iee.psu.edu/funding/seed-grant-program/2023](https://iee.psu.edu/funding/seed-grant-program/2023) for more information, the full RFP.
- Further questions regarding the IEE Seed Grant Program may be emailed to [iee@psu.edu](mailto:iee@psu.edu)