

PERSONALIZED NUTRITION INITIATIVE



Personalized Nutrition Initiative 2022 Seed Grants

Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: June 15, 2022 | 11:59 p.m. CT

Funding available: up to \$50,000 per proposal

[Apply via Qualtrics](#)

Personalized Nutrition Initiative seed grants aim to catalyze unique interdisciplinary personalized nutrition-related research across the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. The Personalized Nutrition Initiative at Illinois was launched in 2020 and is supported by the leadership of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation in partnership with the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology and the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences.

We are seeking proposals from interdisciplinary teams for projects with the potential to provide **new transformative innovations in personalized nutrition** or solutions to personalized nutrition-related barriers. A maximum of \$50,000 may be requested over 2 years. To be eligible, the Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Affiliate member of the Personalized Nutrition Initiative. The proposal must involve Co-PIs from at least two different departments/colleges.

The goals of Seed Grants are for Affiliates to:

1. Develop exploratory research ideas that require involvement of multiple disciplines
2. Develop research ideas that have potential to impact human health
3. Identify a research question(s) that relates to one or more of the Personalized Nutrition Initiative [research themes and cross-cutting areas](#)
4. Collect preliminary data or other relevant information to address research questions
5. Conduct sample data analysis or create visualizations that can be used as a proof-of-concept
6. Prepare, develop, and submit research proposals for external funding

The expected product of the seed grant is a fundable external interdisciplinary research proposal. Projects will be expected to achieve milestones and to actively seek significant external support in the form of a multi-PI research proposal to USDA, NIH, NSF, DOD, DOE, or another federal agency, industry, or foundation. Progress reports will be required at key time points, which may affect continual funding.

Interested parties should submit a Research Proposal, including a research plan and a budget (see instructions below). A review panel will evaluate proposals and forward a recommendation to the Director of the Personalized Nutrition Initiative. Funding decisions will be announced within 1 month after the submission deadline (July 15th).



Research Proposal

- 1. Cover page ([Seed Grant Submission Page](#) online via Qualtrics):** The cover page should include the project title, project summary (200-word max), and the names and contact information of all project personnel. Clearly identify the PI or Co-PI(s) as appropriate.
- 2. Scope of Work:** The Scope of Work should include a description of the innovative nature of the research and the team's capabilities, and where the contribution of each collaborator's expertise is evident.

The Scope of Work should be single-spaced, 11-point font, 1-inch margins, not exceed 2 pages (sections a-d), including figures, tables, and preliminary data, and include all the sections listed below.

- a. Background, Significance, and Transformative Solution
- b. Approach
- c. Need for Collaboration (including how this team is well-suited to tackle the problem at hand)
- d. Plan for Securing External Funding and Continuation
- e. Budget & Detailed Justification including a timeline with deliverables (up to 2-pages).
- f. References (not included in the 2-page limit)
- g. Describe the specific role of each team member in the proposed research, including administrative responsibilities and plans for team communication (up to 2-pages).
- h. Biosketch (NIH, NSF, or USDA) for each investigator indicating publications and external grants received during the last five years only (unlimited page length).
- i. Response to the reviewers' comments, if the proposal is a resubmission (up to 1-page)

*Salary support for tenure-track faculty is not permissible. Do not include fringe benefits for salary support for university staff and students. Up to 10% deviation within the original budget categories is acceptable. Include only direct costs and transmittal forms are not required. A maximum of \$50,000 distributed over two years may be requested.

For funded projects, a 1-year progress report will be required prior to release of year 2 funding.

If your proposal is submitted in **response to a special joint call for proposals**, please indicate that on the Seed Grant Submission page by selecting the correct joint call and clearly identify the Co-PI who is an Affiliate of Personalized Nutrition Initiative and the Co-PI who is a social and behavioral scientist with research aligned with the goals of the Center for Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS).

All proposal materials must be combined into one(1) pdf file, uploaded, and submitted using the [online Seed Grant Proposal Submission Page via Qualtrics](#) before 11:59 PM on June 15, 2022.

Questions? Contact Anna Keck (akeck@illinois.edu) or Sharon Donovan (sdonovan@illinois.edu).

[Find out more about how to become a Personalized Nutrition Initiative Affiliate](#)

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