



Call for Seed Grant Proposals

by

the [Center for Social and Behavioral Science](#)

and

the [Personalized Nutrition Initiative](#)

Preproposal Deadline (required): May 1, 2024 | 11:59 p.m. CT

Full Proposal Deadline (by invitation only): July 15, 2024 | 11:59 p.m. CT

Funding available: up to \$50,000.00 per proposal

Focus

These seed grants aim to bring together research teams across the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) campus to develop ambitious and innovative research projects to advance social and behavioral science-focused personalized nutrition research with promise for external funding.

Supported by the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, these grants provide researchers a foundation to examine important, unexplored areas in social and behavioral science. Interdisciplinary approaches often yield the most groundbreaking work. Thus, priority is given to research teams with members from multiple disciplines.

Eligibility & Considerations

Projects are chosen based on:

- Importance and significance
- Innovation
- Methodological and analytical strengths
- Promise for external funding
- Research teams with members from multiple disciplines

Seed grants:

- A maximum of \$50,000 may be requested
- Has a maximum of 24-month project performance period

Not sure whether your research fits? Contact us at CSBScience@illinois.edu or personalizednutrition@illinois.edu.

Criteria and Eligibility

The seed grants are intended to support activities that will result in submission of external funding proposals such as:

- Development of new, innovative research projects
- Small pilot studies to support larger funding proposals
- Development of novel methodological approaches

Criteria for submissions:

- Innovative approaches to addressing important issues advancing social and behavioral science-focused approaches in personalized nutrition
- Rigorous methods and analyses that can answer the research questions and/or hypotheses
- A clear path to submission of one or more grant proposals to external funding agencies

The funds for seed grants can be used to support the following project-related activities:

- Personnel costs (i.e., graduate or undergraduate student research assistant or a non-student hourly worker)
- Participant support costs
- Supplies and materials
- Data access or data set purchase
- Transcription costs
- Mailing costs
- Travel for data collection to carry out the research

The seed grants are NOT intended to support:

- Tuition waivers
- PI/Co-I salary
- Course buyouts
- Fringe benefits for salary support for Illinois staff and students
- Meetings (e.g., seminars, workshops, conferences, or brown bags)
- Publication costs
- Travel cost for presenting the research at a scientific conference

Eligibility for a seed grant is limited to:

- Tenure-track or research faculty members at Illinois
- Research professionals at Illinois (e.g., Research Scientist or Research Development Manager) *Note:* Graduate students and postdoctoral associates are not eligible to serve as a PI
- At least one investigator must be an Affiliate member of the Personalized Nutrition Initiative
- Must involve Co-PIs from at least two different departments/colleges

Submission Process



Pre-proposal

Preproposals are due on May 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m. CST.

Applicants should upload the pre-proposal via the online [Preproposal Submission Page](#). Please use [this template](#) (Word) for your pre-proposal.

The online [Preproposal Submission Page](#) should include:

- Project title
- The names and contact information of all project personnel. Clearly identify the PI or Co-PI(s) as appropriate
- Requested funds. Include the total amount, up to \$50,000, and how you will spend such funds.
- External funding path. Describe your proposal's connection to a specific external funding opportunity and agency, and include a funding announcement, if appropriate.
- Attach one PDF of the pre-proposal

The pre-proposal should include components A-C:

- A. 1-page pre-proposal with four sections
 1. **Background & Significance** (*Describe the importance of the project and motivation for research*)
 2. **Goals & Objectives** (*Describe what you seek to accomplish in your project*)
 3. **Methods** (*Describe your methodological and analytical plan*)
 4. **Expected Outcomes**
- B. **References** (*This is not part of the 1-page limit.*)
- C. **Biosketches** (*A current Biosketch from each team member should be included in the pre-proposal PDF document. It can be in NIH, NSF or USDA format. This is not part of the 1-page limit.*)

If the pre-proposal is deemed viable by the review committee, the research team will be invited to submit a full proposal, which is due on July 15, 2024, 11:59 p.m. CST.

Full Proposal

Full proposals are by invitation only and are due on July 15, 2024, 11:59 p.m. CST.

Applicants should upload a PDF of the full proposal via the online [Full Proposal Submission Page](#). Please use the template (NIH, USDA, or NSF) we provided for the 6-page full proposal.

The online Full Proposal Submission Page should include:

- The project title
- PI name and contact information
- Project summary (200 word max)
- Budget
- Plan for external funding
- Attach one PDF document of the full proposal

The PDF of the full proposal attachment should include:

1. 6-page full proposal on the template we provided (NIH, USDA, or NSF)
2. Budget justification

The full proposal will be evaluated by a review panel, which consists of social and behavioral science researchers and personalized nutrition researchers from across the campus.

Review Criteria

Proposals are reviewed based on four criteria:

- **Importance and significance.** Does the proposal address an important issue (e.g., a pressing societal challenge or substantive gap in knowledge)? Will the research advance scientific understanding of the issue?
- **Innovation.** Is a new and promising solution to a problem proposed? Is a useful novel methodological and/or analytic approach planned?
- **Methodological and analytical strength.** Will the proposed methods and analyses answer the research questions and/or hypotheses? Is there an appropriate and strong methodological and analytic plan? Is the plan viable given logistical factors (e.g., funding)?
- **Clear path to external funding.** Is there a clear connection to a viable external funding opportunity? Priority is given to proposals with the potential for federal funding (e.g., NIH or NSF).

Post-award Support

We will provide close follow-up support for the funded seed grants. We are available to assist with project administration and management, as well as external funding searches and applications.

If unforeseen problems arise in the implementation of the research, we will do everything possible to help address the situation. However, we reserve the right to recoup monies from projects that cannot be completed as outlined in the original proposal. The decision to recoup monies and the determination for when monies will be recovered will be made at the sole discretion of leaders of the Center for Social and Behavioral Science and the Personalized Nutrition Initiative.

Investigators will be required at the end of the first year, which may affect continual funding. In addition, there is a final report due upon completing the project and an additional report 2-year after the completion describing the results, dissemination (publications, presentations, social media impact), grant funding, and other innovation outcomes (e.g., patent disclosures), other impact of the project, and plans to leverage the project in seeking future external funding. These efforts allow us to track and report outcomes as well as monitor the success of our small grant program.

If investigators wish to make changes to the project team, description, design, or budget throughout the project, they should send a request to personalizednutrition@illinois.edu with the details of these changes. Any such changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should not be made without prior approval