**Request for Proposals**

 **Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Pilot Seed Grant Initiative:**

**Interdisciplinary Collaborations for Improving Human Health**

Nov. 1, 2020 – Oct. 31, 2021

**Synopsis of Program**

The SBS Pilot Seed Grant Initiative will provide seed funding in support of advancing interdisciplinary, research-extension integrated opportunities for faculty that will position them for competitive applications to multiyear, federal research proposals in five thematic priority areas.

**Funding Information**

**Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 2 awards

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** Up to $35,000 per award

**Award Duration:** 12 months

**Deadline**

Proposals are due at **5:00 p.m. CT on** **July 15, 2020.**

**Thematic Priority Areas**

* Sustainable farming and food system innovations to reach underserved populations\* (e.g. food banks and community health and/or healthcare partnerships)
* Human and/or social capacity development in an underserved population\* addressing one or more social determinants of health
* Phase 3 or 4 research in nutrition, chronic disease, and/or obesity prevention or treatment in an underserved population\*
* Translational collaboration (bench to community) innovation in advancing human health through agriculture
* Technology innovations for valid, reliable behavioral monitoring and/or evaluation (e.g. passive wearables for dietary intake assessment; smartphone technologies for biomarker assessment)

*\*define population that will be reached through this work*

**Eligibility Requirements**

**PI**: Only investigators who hold appointments with AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, and/or COALS may serve as a PI. Each proposal must designate one faculty member to serve as the PI and are limited to serving as PI for one proposal per funding period.

**Co-Investigators:** TAMUS faculty holding appointments with AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, COALS, and other system entities are eligible to serve as Co-Investigators on proposals.

***Note:*** Teams must include at least one member whose majority appointment is Extension.

**Award Conditions**

Each awarded PI must agree to:

* Submit a final project report one month after the end of the project detailing: (1) progress towards project aims; (2) any obstacles faced and how they were overcome (if relevant); (3) details on any proposals already submitted for extramural funding; and (4) plans for subsequent submission of proposals for extramural funding;
* Present findings at the AgriLife SBS Seed Grant Initiative Symposium in the Spring of 2022;
* Submit findings for peer review (journals, conference, etc.) within six months of the end of the project;
* Submit at least one extramural grant proposal to a federal funding agency within 12-15 months of project completion.
	+ The proposal must be submitted to Dr. Rebecca Seguin-Fowler for review a minimum of 30 days prior to the submission deadline.
* Submit all proposed extramural grant applications (whether funded or not) to AgriLife Research, along with funded/unfunded status for up to 5 years following the completion of funding.

**Proposal Preparation Instructions**

Maximum six pages including cover page with the information below. Citations, CV’s, and budget are not part of the six-page limit. Use 12-point font with 1-inch margins on all pages.

1. **COVER PAGE:** (1 page)

**Title:**

**Thematic Area of Interest:**

 Name Title Affiliation Email

**Principal Investigator:**

**Dept. Head/Center Director:**

**Co-Investigator(s):**

Amount Requested: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Nov 1, 2020 - Oct 31, 2021)

1. **PROJECT NARRATIVE:** (3 ½ pages)
	1. **Specific Aims:** Succinctly state the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected impacts/outcome(s).
	2. **Significance:** Explain the importance of the problem and current gaps, with an emphasis on how the proposed work will address this and how it will support a successful extramurally funded proposal.
	3. **Innovation**: Describe novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or applications/interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
	4. **Approach:** Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Research methodology should be well described, such that it can be understood by a diverse audience of scientists.
	5. **Impact:** Briefly describe the impact the results of this proposed research may have on the research field involved **as well as how it will be leveraged for a subsequent proposal.**
2. **TEAM MANAGEMENT PLAN:** (½ page)Describe the roles and time commitments of key team members. Demonstrate specific planned (and past, if applicable) collaboration across COALS, Research, and Extension that will be involved to accomplish project aims.
3. **TIMELINE:** (½ page)Provide a detailed timeline describing the anticipated milestones and deliverables. Bullet or table format is preferred.
4. **EXTRAMURAL FUNDING PLAN:** (½ page)Provide an extramural funding plan aligned with the funding cycle and timeline aligned with this Seed Grant. Specify the federal funding opportunity that will be pursued within 12-15 months of project completion. Funding opportunities should be multiyear and integrated (research and extension) grants for at least $200,000 direct funding per year.

*We understand that certain funding opportunities for 2021/2022 have not yet been announced. Please assume that traditional funding opportunities will be renewed.*

1. **CITATIONS:** (no page limit)
2. **CURRICULUM VITAE**: (3-page limit per person) Provide a CV for each team member. The most relevant expertise and products to the Seed Grant should be included.
3. **BUDGET AND ALLOWABLE COSTS:** A detailed budget and justification on the attached template is required.
* Staff (but not faculty) salary, travel, supplies, equipment, and other costs (e.g., participant stipends) may be included;
* Fringe benefits and IDC should not be included in the budget calculations, since they are accounted for in the funds provided by the State of Texas;
* Tuition and international travel are not allowable;
* No formal transfer of funds will occur outside of TAMUS;
* Estimated start date of November 1, 2020; and
* **Convert budget and justification to PDF and add to end of proposal PDF file.**

**Submission Instructions**

Please submit one PDF containing the full proposal, citations, CVs, and budget. Send all materials to the following email address: SBS.SeedGrant@ag.tamu.edu ­­­­­­­­­­­on or **before 5:00 p.m. CT on July 15, 2020.** Note: proposals sent to any other email address will not be considered. Please copy your unit head (e.g. Department Head or Center Director) on your submission.

**Review and Selection Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by an advisory review panel.

**Tentative Timeline:**

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| --- | --- |
| July 15, 2020 (5pm CT) | Proposal deadline |
| Late July/August 2020 | Review of proposals & review committee meeting |
| September 1, 2020 | Notify faculty |
| November 1, 2020 | Project start date. \*If required/necessary, IRB approval is required before funding will be released.  |
| October 31, 2021 | Project end date |
| November 30, 2021 | Final report due |
| Spring 2020 | Present at the AgriLife SBS Pilot Seed Grant Initiative Symposium |
| April 2020 | Deadline for submitting findings for peer review |
| December 31, 2022 | Deadline to submit to federal award. |

The following SBS Pilot Seed Grant Initiative evaluation criteria identifies the general components of a proposal and the weight applied to each component, based on a total of 100 points.

1. Strength of aims, significance, innovation, approach and impact

**(40 points)**

1. The potential to leverage extramural funds from federal sources (USDA, NIH, NSF, etc.) **(30 points)**
2. Qualifications and strength of the team. Must include at least one faculty member from COALS/AgriLife Research and one faculty member from AgriLife Extension

**(10 points)**

1. Reasonableness of timeline

**(10 points)**

1. Adequacy and appropriateness of budget and budget justification

**(10 points)**

**Questions**

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