



KIND - Research Alliance Seed Grant - FAQ

Q: What is the purpose of the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?

A: KIND Research Alliance is an initiative of the NSF-funded ADVANCE-Partnership grant. It is available to any engineering faculty in the CSU system. The purpose of the KIND Research Alliance seed grant is to develop a collaborative research network across the CSU system, and as such, it will **NOT** fund the 'research' directly. However, smaller lab supplies/materials may be purchased using the seed grant funds as long as it is used to promote collaborative research activity

Q: What are some activities that can be funded using the KIND Research Alliance Seed Grant?

A: The KIND Research Alliance Seed Grant can be used for the following activities (please email Lalita Oka loka@csufresno.edu for more information). Please note that you will need to submit the invoices/receipts for the reimbursement of the expenses. Please send the receipts/invoices to us within 30 days of the expense so as to receive the reimbursement.

- Travel to attend conferences - registration fees, hotel, air ticket, train/bus travel
- Professional development activities such as buying subscriptions, publication fees, purchasing books, small electronics, software, educational/teaching aids, and minor lab supplies. Please note we will not be able to provide student support.

Q: Are we required to submit the proposal via research and sponsored program office?

A: No. You are not 'required' to submit the proposal via research and sponsored program office. However, depending on your university's policy, we will accept the application routed through your research office.

Q: Do we need to submit the budget?

A: Yes, You are required to submit the budget (max \$5,000) and a budget justification along with the application, However, the budget is not 'required' to be submitted via research and sponsored program office unless your university's policy requires you to do so.

Q: Can we budget for a course release or overload?

A: No. Unfortunately, this seed grant cannot be used to support course release or overload.

Q: Can we budget for indirect costs?

A: No. This grant is a seed grant meant to support the professional development of the participating faculty.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the KIND Research Alliance Seed Grant?

A: The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- KIND-seed grants are available to ONLY CSU faculty - They can collaborate with non-CSU collaborators, but non-CSU faculty are not eligible for KIND-seed grant funding.
- Lead faculty for KIND-seed grant - Either a Tenure-track (Assistant Prof) or Tenured (Associate Prof only) faculty who have not yet received significant external grants. Full Professors can be a part of the KIND-seed grant team as well as external funding

applications but may not lead the KIND Research Alliance seed grant.

- Applications that have the following people included will be given KIND extra credit points. Please refer to the rubric for additional information:
 - Team with two or more faculty from the registered faculty cohort
 - Team with a tenure-track female engineering faculty as a project leader
 - Team with one or more faculty who identify as URM (Underrepresented Minority- Black, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan, Pacific Islander)
 - Whether or not the project leader has received any significant (> \$10,000) external grant

Q: How many proposals are expected to be funded through the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?

A: 4 - 5 proposals

Q: How much amount is offered through the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?

A: We have a total budget of \$20,000, and we expect to be able to fund \$4,000 to \$5,000 per team.

Q: How many faculty can serve on one team? Or is there any limit on the number of faculty serving on each team?

A: This seed grant is for collaboration and **NOT** for individual (one person) grant proposals (for example, NSF CAREER grant). Please refer to the eligibility criteria. We expect a minimum of TWO faculty on a team.

Q: Is there any limit on the number of teams one faculty can serve?

A: Yes. One faculty can serve on a maximum of TWO teams.

Q: Can I continue to be on the faculty cohort even if my seed grant didn't get funded?

A: YES! The cohort is for everyone who is interested in collaboration, irrespective of whether one gets seed funding

Q: Can I apply for the KIND Research Alliance seed grant next year?

A: Yes, only if you didn't get funding this year. Our goal is to maximize participation from diverse faculty groups. Current NSF funding is expected to be available for two years (AY 23-24 and 24-25). Beyond the grant period, we expect continued effort by collaborating with the STEM-NET program at the CSU Chancellor's Office.

Q: What are the selection criteria for the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?

A: Need-based and Merit-based. Please refer to the eligibility criteria and rubric for additional information.

Q: What are the expected activities from the seed grant awardees apart from research collaboration?

A: Apart from research collaboration (aimed at writing an external grant proposal), the teams are expected to participate in surveys to assess the research needs and evaluate the outcomes.

Q: Can Non-Engineering faculty apply for this grant?

A: Non-engineering faculty can be a part of a team, but the **lead faculty** must be from the College of Engineering. Computer science or construction management faculty can lead the team as long as they are a part of the College of Engineering (or College of Engineering and Sciences when they are together) at the CSU campus

Q: Can we use the KIND Research Alliance seed grant to supplement our existing research?

A: No. The seed grants are provided to launch new collaborative projects and cannot be used to supplement ongoing funded projects.