



## **iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science (NEXUS) Pilot Grant Program**

### **NEXUS Mission:**

**“Facilitating research and solutions to society’s grand challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration”**

The NEXUS Program is pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of its interdisciplinary research pilot grant program focused on interdisciplinary research that will seed the creation of knowledge and solutions to society’s grand challenges.

We are requesting applications that fit into one of two categories:

- (1) Research proposals that address society’s grand challenges as well as topics in the domain of the [Transformative Excellence Program](#). Budget cap of \$15,000 for one year and would lead to strong extramural grant applications.
- (2) Expedition proposals that are designed to encourage teams to explore a new topic and to determine if it has potential for a larger proposal, book project, or other product. Budget cap of \$2,000 for one semester. Funded proposals in this category would generally entail team meetings twice a month.

### Criteria

Proposals are sought from all colleges/departments at the University of Utah. Research teams must comprise two or more regular, full-time faculty members at the University of Utah from different departments and different disciplines that clearly articulate the interdisciplinary perspective.

The NEXUS Pilot Grant Program is designed to facilitate interdisciplinary research by encouraging new research teams or enhancing existing teams. Proposals will be evaluated by at least two reviewers based on these criteria:

1. Each research proposal will be judged based on:
  - a. Significance and Interdisciplinary Perspective
  - b. Investigative Team
  - c. Research Design and Methodology
  - d. Budget
    - a. Use of the WFRDC as appropriate (encouraged)
    - e. Extramural funding potential
2. Proposals must address issues within societal grand challenges (e.g., climate change, immigration, homelessness, air quality, obesity, data security, housing, transportation).
3. Research proposals using existing University of Utah data and research resources are encouraged. Use of the newly launched Wasatch Research Data Center (WFRDC) which provides access to restricted data is encouraged. (<https://nexus.utah.edu/resources/wfrdc.php>). Please consult the website for data availability. Please contact the WFRDC Director ([ken.smith@fcs.utah.edu](mailto:ken.smith@fcs.utah.edu)) or WFRDC Administrator ([bryce.hannibal@census.gov](mailto:bryce.hannibal@census.gov)) for questions. Projects that address the COVID-19 pandemic will also be given special consideration. NEXUS funds are ideally suited to cover data costs of accessing WFRDC data.
- 4.
5. Proposals that generate data resources that endure and can be used for future research are encouraged.
6. Proposals must provide a well-articulated strategy for securing extramural funding or in the case of Expedition grants promising next steps for the team.

## Research Proposal Format:

1. Brief cover letter that identifies the team members, and the name and department/college of the PI. Describe how the project qualifies as interdisciplinary research and the extramural funding opportunities that may be used.
2. Research project description, including:
  - a. Title and affiliations of PI and co-I(s)
  - b. Research Summary (2-page maximum) that includes:
    - i. Hypotheses and Specific Aim(s)
    - ii. Methodology/Approach
    - iii. The value added of the interdisciplinary team and approach
    - iv. Connection to WFRDC as appropriate (encouraged)
  - c. Timeline of the project including date of extramural grant submission
  - d. References
  - e. Itemized budget (no more than one-half page) – no faculty salaries or equipment allowed.
3. CV and a link to the FAR of PI
  - a. Proposals should be submitted by 5:00 pm, May 15, 2020
  - b. Review decisions will be announced by May 30, 2020
  - c. Awards are for 1 year.
4. A proposal may be submitted before IRB approval is obtained, but documentation of final IRB approval or exemption is required before funds will be disbursed.

## Expedition Proposals

1. Brief cover letter that identifies the team members, and the name and department/college of the PI. Describe how the project idea qualifies as interdisciplinary research.
2. Expedition project description, including:
  - a. Title and affiliations of PI and likely team members
  - b. Research Summary (1-page maximum) that includes:
    - i. Background and Topic
    - ii. Team building and “expeditionary” approach to advance the idea, including a proposed schedule.
    - iii. The value added of the interdisciplinary team and approach
    - i. Connection to WFRDC Connection to WFRDC as appropriate (encouraged)
  - c. Next steps for the team
  - d. References
  - b. Itemized budget (no more than one-half page) - no faculty salaries or equipment allowed.
3. CV and a link to the FAR for PI
  - a. Proposals should be submitted by 5:00 pm, May 15, 2020
  - b. Review decisions will be announced by May 30, 2020
  - c. Awards are for 1 semester.

Only current NEXUS members are eligible to apply for these funds. Membership applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For membership instructions see [link](#). Awards are for the PI who must also be a faculty member at the University of Utah. Teams, however, may include collaborators at other universities who are not NEXUS members.

Send all proposals to the NEXUS Administrative Coordinator, Austin Westley [austin.westley@csbs.utah.edu](mailto:austin.westley@csbs.utah.edu), by 5:00 pm, May 15, 2020