The Office of the Dean of the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences (CBSHS) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for the annual IMPACT grants program. The IMPACT program aligns with the Clemson Forward plan for research to make a real impact (see: https://www.clemson.edu/forward/research.html).

IMPACT’s purpose is to provide a tangible investment to accelerate CBSHS faculty members’ ability to produce impactful research that benefits people and communities. The ideal outcome is CBSHS-led nationally recognized research programs with external funding, significant awards or scientific products, or multi-year projects. A real investment to make a real impact. Wherever possible, these efforts should align with the University’s six strategic innovation areas — big data/cyber; health innovation; sustainability; human resilience; transportation, energy and advanced manufacturing; and advanced materials.

A major goal of the IMPACT program is to increase research productivity as evidenced by submission of significant external research proposals, the receipt of significant research awards, and the production of scientific publications or other research products that bring national prominence to CBSHS and Clemson University. As such, each IMPACT proposal should clearly identify the primary outcome as it relates to achieving this goal.

It is well understood that a firm theoretical and organizational foundation must exist for competitive multi-disciplinary, and perhaps multi-institutional, proposals. IMPACT funding is intended to serve as a catalyst to move these projects to a point that makes them competitive for external funding. By the nature of the targeted funding, successful proposals will likely include multiple faculty members. Therefore, participation from across departments and colleges is encouraged; however the Principal Investigator must have an appointment with CBSHS. In addition, proposals that involve a senior faculty member paired with a junior faculty member in a mentor-mentee relationship are encouraged, even if these mentor-mentee teams are from the same unit. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the submission.

The IMPACT grant submission and review process will be coordinated by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate studies with the assistance of the CBSHS Research Committee in proposal evaluation and selection of funded projects.

The selection criteria for the IMPACT proposals include:

1) the significance of the proposed work, i.e. what will we learn from it and how will it move a specific research field forward;
2) how the innovation (or lack thereof) contributes to the potential for a sustained and powerful influence;
3) the strengths and weaknesses of the investigator(s), approach, and environment that enhance or detract from the likelihood of achieving success; and
4) how the project will accelerate the Principal Investigator’s (PI’s) ability to produce impactful research that benefits people and communities and increases CBSHS’s and Clemson’s national prominence.

PIs of previous IMPACT grants are not eligible to be PIs on new submissions unless they have already submitted a large external proposal targeted on their previous IMPACT grant. In general, proposals will be limited to funding of $50,000 or less, with preference given to those which show significant possibility of major future awards or impact (in the >$300K category). Given the expected interdisciplinary nature of the reviewers, which reflects the typical grant review panel, it is important that the proposals be written in a conversational manner targeted at scientist reviewers who may have a working knowledge of the field, but not be experts in the proposed research area.

Applicants should submit a (maximum) 4-page proposal that includes:

1) a brief abstract;
2) a description of the project;
3) a statement of need for the project;
4) methods to be used;
5) a description of the project team; and
6) timeline for project completion; and.
7) budget with justification, NOT to exceed $50,000.

A separate list of references may be attached and is not counted in the 4-page limit. Cover letters and CVs should not be included.

Format the proposal using 12-pt. Times New Roman font or 11-pt. Arial, single line spacing, one-inch margins, and 8 ½ x 11 inch paper size.

Principal Investigators should work with the Center for Research and Collaborative Activities¹ for application and budgeting assistance and to submit their proposals through the InfoEd portal to Dr. Eric Muth, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, Clemson University.

Use of Funds:
The IMPACT funds may be used for a variety of activities including, but not limited to:

- Graduate stipends (note that documentation from the department chair that an internal GAD will be secured for student(s) must be included or the student must be paid grad hourly)
- Software
- Database access
- Equipment or facility access to acquire key data
- Travel to engage program managers
- Travel to meet with collaborators from other institutions to work on proposal planning
- Participant support
- Faculty salary, including post-docs and/or adjuncts (allowed only in RARE cases and requires documentation of prior approval from the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies)

¹ https://www.clemson.edu/academics/dcas/crca/proposal-notification/index.html
Please note that IMPACT funds cannot be used as matching funds for University-level initiatives. In addition, faculty with projects funded by the IMPACT program are ineligible to apply for University level funding.

Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual accounts maintained at the college or department level dependent on the discretion of the CBSHS financial officer, with no F&A (indirect) costs. Cost share by departments, such as additional funds, instrument time, release time, staff or student support, is highly encouraged, but not required. If departmental cost share is being provided, please explain what is being provided in the budget justification section. The IMPACT award project period will be 12 months, running July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Office of Sponsored Programs Requirements:
Prior to submission, all investigators associated with a proposal must complete the (1) Sponsored Programs Certification and (2) Conflict of Interest training and disclosure. Please visit https://www.clemson.edu/research/sponsored-programs/researchers/spc.html and https://www.clemson.edu/conflict-of-interest/training.html for more information.

Questions about the rationale and practical matters related to the IMPACT program can be directed to the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Eric Muth (muth@clemson.edu) or the Center for Research and Collaborative Activities (crca@clemson.edu).

Key Dates:
- Tuesday, December 19 – call for proposals sent to all CBSHS faculty.
- Wednesday, March 14 – all “ready-to-submit” proposal materials due in electronic form by 4:30pm to the CRCA grants coordinator assigned to your proposal.
- NLT June 30th – faculty notified of funding decisions and funds will become available July 1st.
- If any of these dates fall on a weekend or university holiday, the due date will default to the next business day.