The Office of the Dean of the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences (CBSHS) is pleased to announce the 2020 Request for Proposals for the IMPACT grant program.

The IMPACT grant program aims to increase research productivity through the submission of external research proposals, the receipt of honorific awards, and the production of scientific publications that bring national prominence to CBSHS and Clemson University. Research supported by IMPACT grants should align with ClemsonFORWARD’s six strategic innovation clusters (see: https://www.clemson.edu/forward/research.html).

There are two categories of 2020 CBSHS IMPACT grants: Tiger Teams and Mentee-Mentor grants.

1) **Tiger Team (TT) IMPACT grants** are intended to promote collaboration among CBSHS departments as well as with departments across campus. Proposals that involve faculty from more departments will be able to apply for a higher tier with a larger budget.

2) **Mentee-Mentor (MM) IMPACT grants** are intended to provide an opportunity for junior tenure-track faculty to develop their research skills by working with established investigators in CBSHS. The focus of the mentorship may take many forms, including but not limited to: methodology, research area, publications, and/or grant writing.

One of the main goals of the IMPACT grant program is to facilitate submission of grant proposals to external funding sources. IMPACT grants will have an 18-month project period, beginning with a 12-month research phase followed by a 6-month proposal phase. During the proposal phase, research teams will receive dedicated support from the CBSHS Research Support Center’s Research Development staff to identify funding opportunities and coordinate the assembly of a competitive grant proposal. Submission of a competitive grant proposal to an external sponsor should be the ultimate outcome of all IMPACT grants.

**Key Dates:**

- March 1, 2020: IMPACT grant program RFP released
- April 15, 2020: IMPACT grant proposals due
- Early May 2020: Funding decisions announced

**Eligibility:**

- The PI must have a primary appointment in a CBSHS department and be tenured/tenure-track or research faculty. Graduate students and postdoctoral students are not eligible to be PIs.
- Individuals can serve as the PI on only one submission. Individuals may serve in other roles on additional proposals.
- Projects that have previously received internal funding (e.g., CBSHS IMPACT, CU SEED, Prisma Health Seed) are not eligible.


- **TT grants**: At least 50% of the team must have primary appointments in CBSHS departments. Co-Is are welcome from other non-CBSHS departments.
- **MM grants**: The mentee must be an Assistant Professor. The mentor must be tenured. Both mentee and mentor must have primary appointments in a CBSHS department.

**Required Documents:**

1) Cover sheet (see form)
2) 4-page maximum proposal
   a) Brief abstract
   b) Description of the research team
   c) Description of the research project, significance, and methods
   d) Statement of need for the project
   e) Statement of primary outcomes
   f) List of 1-3 likely sponsors and links to potential RFAs for targeted external grant submissions
   g) Proposed timeline for project completion
3) Bibliography & References Cited
4) Budget
5) Budget justification
6) Biosketch for each team member (one-page limit)

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.

The IMPACT award project period will be 18 months from June 1, 2020 – November 30, 2021.

**Budgetary Guidelines:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Budget (max)</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Investigators</th>
<th>Minimum Structure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM1</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>1 mentee + 1 mentor</td>
<td>Both from CBSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT2</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>2 investigators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT3</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>3 investigators</td>
<td>&gt;= 2 departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT4</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>4 investigators</td>
<td>&gt;= 3 departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT5</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>5 investigators</td>
<td>&gt;= 4 departments</td>
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**Use of Funds:**

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

- Personnel costs
  - Research staff
  - Graduate student costs (see note below)
  - Fringe
- Software
- Database access
- Equipment or facility access to acquire key data
- Travel to engage sponsor program managers
- Travel to meet with collaborators from other institutions to work on proposal planning
- Participant incentives
- Mentor compensation
  - A maximum of $2000 may be allocated to mentor compensation for MM grants
IMPACT funds may **NOT** be used for the following costs:

- Salary for faculty, post-docs, or adjuncts. These costs are only allowed in **VERY RARE cases** and requires documentation of prior approval from the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies
- Graduate student tuition
- Indirect or Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs

Please note that graduate students should be paid hourly unless the department is willing to pay for the Graduate Assistant Differential (GAD), in which case graduate student stipends can be budgeted.

Please note that IMPACT funds cannot be used as matching funds for University-level initiatives.

Use of funds is subject to business center approval. Expenditures must be made in accordance and compliance with all laws, policy, procedures, and practices of the State of South Carolina, Clemson University, and/or the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences.

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. Matching funds by departments, such as additional funds, instrument time, release time, staff or student support, is highly encouraged but not required. If departmental matching is provided, please explain what is being provided in the budget justification section.

**Submission Process:**
PIs must follow the same procedures for submitting IMPACT grants as are required for external grant submissions. These procedures are outlined below:

1) ‘Hit The PAW’ as soon as possible to notify the CBSHS Research Support Center of your intent to submit
   - [https://www.clemson.edu/cbshs/research/index.html](https://www.clemson.edu/cbshs/research/index.html)
2) All investigators associated with a proposal must complete the (1) Sponsored Programs Certification and (2) Conflict of Interest training and disclosure
   - [https://www.clemson.edu/research/sponsored-programs/researchers/spc.html](https://www.clemson.edu/research/sponsored-programs/researchers/spc.html)
   - [https://www.clemson.edu/conflict-of-interest/training.html](https://www.clemson.edu/conflict-of-interest/training.html)
3) PIs must work with the CBSHS Research Support Center for budgeting assistance and proposal submission. PIs will be assigned a staff member after they “Hit the PAW.”
4) Final documents must be provided to the CBSHS Research Support Center by April 8, 2020

**Review Process & Selection Criteria:**
The IMPACT grant review process will be coordinated by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies with the assistance of the CBSHS Research Committee for proposal review and funding decisions. Given the expected interdisciplinary nature of the reviewers, 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 are not experts in the proposed research area.

The selection criteria for the IMPACT grants include:

- The significance of the proposed work (i.e., what will be learned from it and how will it move a specific research field forward)
- The impact of the proposed work (i.e., how the innovation contributes to the potential for a sustained and powerful influence)
- The strengths and weaknesses of the investigator(s), approach, and environment that enhance or detract from the likelihood of achieving success
• The likelihood of success in achieving the identified primary outcome
• The necessity of the requested resources for achieving the primary outcome
• **TT grants:**
  o How the project will accelerate the team’s ability to produce impactful research that benefits people and communities and increases CBSHS’s and Clemson’s national prominence
  o The importance of the collaborative team, and how working together as a team will lead to increased potential for success
• **MM grants:**
  o How the mentorship will accelerate the mentee’s ability to produce impactful research that benefits people and communities and increases CBSHS’s and Clemson’s national prominence
  o The importance of the mentorship and how the mentorship will lead to increased potential for success for the mentee

**Deliverables & Reporting:**
The primary deliverable for IMPACT grants is completion of a successful research project that provides the team with the data and experience required to prepare and submit a competitive grant proposal to an external sponsor.

Awardees must complete a report every 6 months of the project period. These reports will include a discussion of what has been accomplished, how the project funds have been spent, the team’s plans to ensure timely completion of the project, and the research products that have been produced.

- Midterm Research Report (due no later than December 31, 2020)
- Research Completion Report (due no later than May 30, 2021)
- Final Report (due no later than November 30, 2021)

Awardees are expected to spend 50% of awarded funds by the end of the ninth month of the project period (February 28, 2021) and 100% of the awarded funds by the end of the 12-month research phase (May 30, 2021).

**Failure to submit an external proposal, complete reports, or spend funds appropriately and in a timely manner will result in suspension of all team members from consideration for any CBSHS funding programs until August 2023.**

**Questions:**
For 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. Rachel Mayo (rmayo@clemson.edu).

For questions about guidelines, required documents, or submission procedures, please contact Mariah Meachum (mmeachu@clemson.edu).