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 first 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 the IMPACT proposals 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. Multi-institutional efforts will also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission.

The IMPACT grant submission and review process will be coordinated by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate studies with the assistance of CBSHS Research Committee in proposal evaluation and selection of funded projects. The selection criteria for the IMPACT proposals include: the significance of the
proposed work, i.e. what will we learn from it and how will it move a specific research field forward; how the innovation (or lack thereof) contributes to the potential for a sustained and powerful influence; and the strengths and weaknesses of the investigator(s), approach, and environment that enhance or detract from the likelihood of achieving success. 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) 3-page proposal that includes:
(1) a description of the project;
(2) a description of the project team;
(3) a statement of need for the project;
(4) methods to be used;
(5) timeline for project completion; and
(6) budget with justification, NOT to exceed $50,000.

Principal Investigators should work with the Center for Research and Collaborative Activities 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:
• Faculty salary (only in RARE and justified cases)
• Graduate stipends (note that a plan must be developed and pre-approved for covering the student’s GAD 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

Please note that IMPACT funds cannot be used as matching funds for University level initiatives. In addition, 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, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Sponsored Programs Certification Requirement
Prior to release of funds, all awardees must complete the Sponsored Programs Certification. For more information and for a link to the certification, please visit http://www.clemson.edu/research/sponsored/proposallifecycle/spcertification.html. 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). For application and budgeting assistance please contact the Center for Research and Collaborative Activities.

Key Dates:
- January 27th – call for proposals sent to all CBSHS faculty
- April 14th – written proposals due in electronic form by 4:30pm to the CBSHS Center for Research and Collaborative Activities (crca@clemson.edu)
- 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