

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2026

October 2026

The Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute at Clemson University is pleased to announce a call for proposals for our 10th annual seed grant program, the “Collaborative Grants Program,” with a budget cap of \$30,000 for 1 year.



The purpose of these collaborative grants is to support faculty and partnerships that accelerate researchers' abilities to address significant scientific and societal problems associated with sport and improve the human condition through sport, broadly defined. They should increase research productivity as evidenced by the future submission of significant external research proposals, the receipt of significant research awards, and the production of scientific publications and/or other research products. They should ideally include multiple faculty members and/or students, multiple disciplines and perhaps researchers and participants from other institutions, so long as Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the proposal submission.

The collaboration grants will be reviewed, generally, by the Associate Deans for Research (ADRs) in the colleges represented by our cohort of faculty fellows in addition to a key representative from Athletics. Given the expected interdisciplinary nature of the reviewers, proposals should 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 areas.

Project proposal requests should NOT exceed \$30,000 (this is a cap, not a target) and reasonably align with the funds needed to successfully complete the proposed work. No F&A or GAD costs are allowed in the budget. Cost-share by departments, such as additional funds, instrument time, release time or student support is encouraged but not required. If departmental cost-share is included, please explain what is being provided and the chart string to be used in the budget justification section.

Principal Investigators must work with their college-sponsored programs support center to submit their proposals through the InfoEd portal in accordance with college-sponsored programs support center procedures to the Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute (BSSI: Applied). If the proposal requires the use of Clemson University Athletics Department resources, e.g., student-athlete participation, facility use or sponsorship, Principal Investigators are required to submit a Request for Athletic Department Participation in Research form as part of the InfoEd approval process.

All applicable Research Compliance reviews (such as Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and so forth) can be found at <http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/> and must be completed by all awardees prior to the release of funds.

Finalists may be required to make a brief (5-minute) presentation to the review panel outlining the proposed project.

Deadline for Submission: Friday, November 16, 2026

Funding Available: (approximately) February 15, 2027

Submission of proposals: Applicants should submit a 3-page proposal narrative that includes:

1. Description of the project.
2. Description of the project team.
3. Statement of need for the project.
4. Methods to be used.
5. Timeline for project completion.
6. Brief budget summary with justification.
7. References should be included and do not count towards the 3-page limit.
8. A separate internal budget worksheet (provided by your college) and detailed justification should be included, and also do not count towards the 3-page limit.

Keys to successful proposals are:

1. No more than a 3-page proposal, plus a separate budget sheet and references.
2. Letters of support from collaborators tied specifically to the project if needed.
3. Potential for highest quality social and scientific research.
4. Potential for great impact:
 - a. Future funding,
 - b. Impact on understanding sports-related social and scientific issues,
 - c. Recognition and enhanced visibility to Clemson University and RHBSSI.
5. A multi-disciplinary approach to the issue at hand.
6. Inclusion of both academic and athletic professionals, involvement and context.
7. Likelihood of successful, on-time completion.

Questions about the rationale and practical matters related to this grants program can be directed to Interim Director, John DesJardins, Ph.D. at jdesjar@clemson.edu. For budgeting assistance, please contact your college-sponsored programs support center. This is particularly important in cases that involve institutions outside of Clemson University.

Respectfully and Go Tigers,



John D. DesJardins Ph.D.
Hambricht Distinguished Professor in Engineering Leadership
Interim Director, Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute