



Colorado State University

Office of the Vice President for Research *Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships Program*

SYNOPSIS OF THE PROGRAM

The Vice President for Research is pleased to announce an internal request for proposals for the FY18/19 **Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships** program.

The mission of the Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships (CIP) program is to facilitate and position Colorado State University, through the creation and support of inter/transdisciplinary research teams tackling grand societal and scientific challenges, *to achieve greater regional, national, and global impact*, in accordance with our land grant heritage and mission. The program objectives and anticipated outcomes are as follows:

- Translate knowledge and research into tangible products
- Transform academic research into action
- Leverage CIP program funding to increase extramural financial investments
- Drive toward transformative multidisciplinary, multi-partner proposals
- Diversify the institutional research funding base
- Increase visibility of CSU's research programs at national and international levels
- Create new, productive research collaborations
- Actively demonstrate the importance, relevance, success and societal benefits of inter/transdisciplinary team research

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Catalyst program is a unique, internal investment program, focused on teams and initiatives that are high-risk and high-reward. Proposed Catalyst programs should be highly ambitious, but achievable. Teams should be working toward the creation of tangible products, including large-scale proposals; high caliber research and scholarly

outputs; and new, productive, and impactful collaborations, both internally and with external partners.

Catalyst teams should anticipate considerable involvement of, engagement with, and accountability to the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) throughout the duration of the award. Catalyst teams will meet with OVPR staff three times a year to review progress, discuss challenges, and receive feedback. Teams will also report on programmatic metrics tri-annually, and at program end. As appropriate, the OVPR will facilitate engagement with other CSU offices, such as Advancement, Foundation Relations, Corporate Relations, Global Research, or others, as suitable to the goals of each Catalyst team. Teams will be expected to participate in OVPR research initiatives on understanding the science of successful interdisciplinary research teams.

The FY18/19 Catalyst program will be open to new Catalyst teams and project ideas, including but not limited to PRE-CIP program participants. Teams that participated in the Pre-Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships program will receive preferential consideration.

All teams should consider and address how they will handle issues associated with the development and management of large, interdisciplinary teams, including leadership structure and approach, committed efforts of team leadership and members, communication strategies, and project management. Teams will be required to utilize at least 10% of their total budget on project management resources. If teams need assistance in identifying project management resources, the OVPR and Research Acceleration Office can assist in the procurement of such resources. The re-seeding of funds [i.e. use of CIP funds to fund seed projects] will not be allowed except with prior approval from the OVPR.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility:

- All full-time, regular, and special appointment CSU faculty are eligible to serve as PIs.
- Proposals must either currently involve or propose to create an inter/transdisciplinary collaboration between three or more faculty members from three or more distinct disciplines.

Applications that include collaboration between multiple colleges as well as collaboration with faculty from the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Business are highly encouraged, as are proposals including collaborations with external partners. Cost share from external sources (outside of CSU) is strongly encouraged.

TIMELINE

The CIP program and associated funding period will run for 30 months (2.5 years), from July 1, 2017, through December 31, 2019 (FY18-20). Catalyst teams will be funded in amounts up to \$200,000 per team. Funding will start 6 months into the program (January 1, 2018), and will be available through program end (December 31, 2019). We anticipate that 3-5 awards will be made program-wide.

As a part of the proposal review and award selection process, semi-finalists will be invited to participate in a pitch fest in early May, 2017, to help select final Catalyst awardees. Details regarding the pitch fest will be provided at time of selection.

DATE	EVENT
February 28, 2017	Announcement released
April 14, 2017	Deadline for receipt of proposals
Early May, 2017	Semi-finalists compete in pitch fest
May 31, 2017	Anticipated awardee notification
July 1, 2017	Estimated program start date
January 1, 2018	Funding start date
July, 2017	CIP Kick-Off Meeting
November, 2017	CIP Review 1
January, 2018	Funding Released
March, 2018	CIP Review 2
July, 2018	CIP Review 3
November, 2018	CIP Review 4
March, 2019	CIP Review 5
July, 2019	CIP Review 6
November, 2019	CIP Final Review (7)
December, 2019	Program End; final reporting

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Formatting, all sections: 1.5-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font with 1" margins.

Proposals should include the following elements:

1. Cover Page (1 page max):

Include the title of the proposal; the PI name, department, college, and contact information; and a list of team members, with associated department and college affiliations.

2. Project Description (5 pages max):

For All Applicants: Provide a description of your proposed project. Proposals should address the elements of the Heilmeier Catechism, provided below. Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the team and why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to address the proposed research focus. Describe how completion of the proposed activities will result in sustained inter/transdisciplinary efforts, including discussion of the large-scale funding opportunities the team will pursue.

Heilmeier Catechism:

- *What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.*
- *How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?*
- *What is new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?*
- *Who cares? If you succeed, what difference will it make?*
- *What are the risks?*
- *How much will it cost? How long will it take? What are the mid-term and final "exams" to check for success?*

3. Project Plan and Stage Gates (1 page max):

Provide a project plan and timeline for the two years of Catalyst funding (e.g., Gantt chart). Include all anticipated major activities and key milestones, including anticipated external funding targets. ***Teams must propose at least two major milestones ("stage gates") per year*** (4 stage gates total over the program period) that will serve as benchmarks of the team's progress toward its overall goals. The OVPR will also use progress on stage gates to allocated funding, and reserves the right to halt or withdraw funding if a team fails to meet reasonable expectations regarding progress. Please describe these stage gates, including how progress

towards these milestones will be measured, and the target time by which the stage gate will be achieved.

4. Team Composition and Management Plan: (1 page max):

Briefly describe the team composition and leadership structure (note: biosketches in the NSF two-page format should be provided for each team member as an Appendix). Discuss how postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students will be engaged, as applicable. Provide a brief project management plan, including a description of the project management resources that will be utilized. Resources may include a specific person who will act as project manager, project management software that will be utilized, etc.

5. Budget and Justification (1 page max):

Provide a line item budget, using your stage gates to demarcate budget time periods, rather than project year. Provide a brief justification of anticipated costs. Describe all sources of external cost share committed to the project. Please note: all teams will be required to utilize at least 10% of their total budget on project management resources [e.g., project management personnel, software, etc.]. The re-seeding of funds will not be allowed except with prior approval from the OVPR.

6. References (no page limit)

7. Appendix (no page limit):

Include a biosketch (2 page max per investigator) for the project PI, Co-PIs, and key personnel. Include letters of support from Departments, Colleges, Facilities, or other key project partners.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please submit proposals via email to vpr_nominations@Mail.ColoState.EDU by **5:00PM MST on April 14, 2017.**

Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified reviewers. Semi-finalists will be invited to participate in an open pitch fest in early May. Final selection will be made by the VPR.

It is anticipated that awardees will be notified via email on or before May 31, 2017.

Please contact Meghan Suter (Meghan.suter@colostate.edu; 970.491.3998) with questions or for more information.