

USF COVID-19 Rapid Response Research Grants

[Call for Proposals](#)

Submission Deadline: Monday, April 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm (EDT)

Program Goals and Description:

Recognizing that health is the single most important asset to people across the globe, sustaining healthy lives, building communities and livable societies, preventing and treating disease, and encouraging well-being across the globe are core elements of research at the University of South Florida. This is reflected in the USF Research Strategic Plan which focuses on “issues where society urgently needs innovation and change,” and emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration to address complex problems required to ensure human health and well-being. USF’s fundamental commitment to solving global problems, positively shaping the future, providing equitable resources to diverse and vulnerable communities, and improving (and saving) lives clearly resonates with great urgency at this very moment. Fortunately, we are uniquely positioned to leverage our broad research strengths, scholarly expertise, and extensive experience in collaborating with internal and external partners to rapidly respond to the current COVID-19 crisis as well as future pandemics.

The [USF COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program](#), administered through the Office Research & Innovation, will offer at least two rounds of proposal submission for funding consideration. This first round offers tenured/tenure-track and full-time research faculty members the opportunity to apply for **funds to focus specifically on research that can be immediately initiated, completed within a short time frame** (i.e., 3-6 months) **and lead to the rapid submission of proposals for external funding**. Round 1 proposals should reflect the unique strengths of USF to contribute to a competitive landscape for funding; promote a transdisciplinary approach across departments, colleges, and campuses now and/or in the future; and **focus on at least one of the following key COVID-19 Pandemic Response Research Network™ research areas listed below** (See [USF Task Force for COVID-19 Research Funding Executive Summary](#) for additional information on these research areas).

- Basic Research Toward Therapeutics, Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Cleaning Solutions
- Behavioral, Socio-emotional, and Educational Wellbeing
- Clinical, Translational, & Therapeutic Discovery
- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Environmental Consequences of the COVID-19 Viral Epidemic
- Information, Computing, and Communication Technology
- Manufacturing, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
- Microbiome, Immunology, and Infection Mitigation

The following will not be considered for funding under this Call for Proposals:

- Legacy funding
- Sole investigator research projects
- Maintenance contracts

Round 2 proposals, to be announced at a later date, must expand transdisciplinary approaches across departments, colleges and campuses.

Budget Details:

The 3-6 month budget cap for this first round of awards is **\$25,000**. Inclusion of matching funds (e.g., RIA funds, department funds, or in-kind contributions) are strongly encouraged and will be considered in the evaluation of proposals.

Submission and Evaluation of Full Proposals:

Proposals for the [USF COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program](#) may be submitted by full-time tenured/tenure-track and research faculty members at USF. **Principal Investigators must submit their proposal (electronic form) by Monday, April 13, 2020, at 5:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) through the dedicated website portal (will be available for proposal upload beginning Thursday, April 9, 2020 at <https://www.research.usf.edu/source-forms/module-w>).**

Notes:

- **Accelerated submission deadline to address current pandemic**
- **Only one Full Proposal per lead PI will be accepted. Submit as PDF only.**

Proposals must include the following:

- **Contact Information:** Provide contact information for the lead PI and Co-PI(s), including Chair and Dean/Director
- **Biosketch** for the PI and each Co-PI using NIH or NSF format (no more than two pages in length for each), plus one page listing current and pending funding for the PI and Co-PIs (links for biosketch examples <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> or <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp>)
- **Proposal Description:** Present a detailed description of your proposal, no more than two (2) double spaced pages in length, including how this proposal aligns with the Call for Proposal key COVID-19 areas, potential for this research to improve public health, how the proposal can promote transdisciplinary collaboration now and/or in the future, why this proposal is novel, innovative, and/or inventive, and the capacity of the research to rapidly leverage external funding. (For the most up-to-date information on currently available external funding opportunities related to COVID-19, visit: <https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/sar/covid19-research.aspx>)
- **Budget:** One-page budget for 3-6 months of funding (e.g., equipment, salary, benefits, etc.). Use the budget template found at the link below and upload your budget (Summary page only) as a PDF: <https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/train/documents/budget-preparation-tool.xlsx>
- **Budget Justification:** Explain the need for each line item in the budget, including the breakdown of calculations used to arrive at the amount in each line.

If the specified application requirements, submission procedures, and all requested information are not provided, the proposal will not be considered for funding.

Upon review of these proposals, selected Principal Investigators will be notified if they are awarded. It is anticipated that award announcements will be made rapidly and no later than April 20, 2020. Funds will be released shortly after the award is announced and investigators must be prepared to begin projects immediately upon receipt of funding.

Project Reporting Expectations for Awardees:

Awardees will communicate any project successes such as publications, external grant applications, invention disclosures, patents or patent applications, conference presentations, creative work, press releases, licenses, etc. as soon as possible, and for up to three years beyond the initial funding period, so that they can be disseminated through USFRI.

A final report detailing the work accomplished, highlighting significant achievements and outcomes, and a plan for future work will be submitted by each awardee at the conclusion of the project period. Follow-up reports also may be requested.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING USF'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS:

[USF Coronavirus Update - www.usf.edu/coronavirus](http://www.usf.edu/coronavirus): The University of South Florida continues to closely monitor the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority as university leaders work closely with local, state and federal agencies to share the most updated information.

(Last updated: 4/7/2020, 10:58AM)