

LRDC Internal Awards Program for 2022 Overview of Purposes and Procedures

Introduction

The LRDC Internal Awards Program is designed to support the development of new, innovative and interdisciplinary research by LRDC scientists. Awards made in prior years of the program can be viewed on the LRDC website in “Internal Access.”

Proposals for **2022** are now being accepted. Applications should be submitted by **5 pm ET, Monday February 14, 2022**. Details are described below.

Goals of the Internal Awards Program

The program has the following interrelated goals:

To stimulate new interdisciplinary directions in Center research that are intellectually exciting and have the potential to be financially sustainable through future external funding.

Collaborative proposals may include LRDC Center Associates, Research Associates, and researchers external to LRDC; however, applications must be led by LRDC faculty or Research Associates. An LRDC Scientist or Research Associate can only PI one internal proposal but may be part of more than one.

Award Description and Application Process

Awards will be made for a period of up to two years for a maximum total of **\$150K**.

Proposal Content. Applicants should submit a proposal that addresses the following items: project narrative (≤2,800 words), a separate page for references, a budget page, and short bios of proposed research team members who are not at LRDC. Revisions of previously submitted proposals should reflect changes in response to reviewer comments.

1. Clear description of the proposed research/activity, including its rationale, its main research questions, its methods, and its anticipated outcomes.
2. A description of the collaborative roles of each participant.
3. Identify the title, the names of all investigators, and the year of any prior award(s).
4. The extent to which the research represents a new direction for the investigators.
5. Aspects of the work that make it both *intellectually exciting* and that signal the *potential for sustainability* through federal funding beyond the awards program.
6. A section that details how the proposed work expands diversity at LRDC; this requirement is based on LRDC’s firm belief that attention to diversity and inclusion strengthens both the process and outcomes of interdisciplinary research. See additional details below.
7. A cost effective and detailed budget, including time estimates of workflow and expenditures for the length of the activity. Budgets should show costs directly in support of research (personnel, equipment, and other costs directly in support of the proposed research). Faculty salaries are not supported. Postdoc salaries are allowed, and an additional supplement (50% of the postdoc's salary) can be awarded for postdocs minoritized by racial/ethnicity. Budgets should be prepared with the assistance of LRDC Fiscal Services. Requests should not exceed \$150K for the two-year award period (excluding a possible postdoc supplement). Among proposals of similar quality, preference may be given to requests of smaller amounts in order to ensure the widest access to funds.

Submission. The proposal should be submitted electronically to the LRDC Director of Administration by the deadline indicated above.

Diversity and Inclusion

Projects that address growing diversity at LRDC will receive priority. Diversity is broadly defined: economic, cultural, ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities, non-US citizens, non-traditional students, and individuals with disabilities. Proposals should include identities who have been historically marginalized in the disciplines as part of the research team. Where the research project itself specifically focuses on particular marginalized communities, there should be a match in the research team's composition with that project focus. LRDC may provide an additional supplement covering 50% of a postdoc's salary for postdocs minoritized by race/ethnicity. Possible strategies for addressing this criterion might include but are not limited to collaborations with diversity-focused centers at Pitt (e.g., Center on Race and Social Problems, Center for Urban Education) or beyond, or participating in targeted recruitment efforts (e.g., Hot Metal Bridge, LRDC summer internship program). If minoritized trainees are included, specific strategies for recruitment and trainee mentoring should be discussed.

Criteria for award

Proposals will be judged on seven criteria (in order of relative importance): scientific merit, fundability (especially federal funding), meaningful attention to diversity and inclusion, new collaboration, new research direction for LRDC, cost effectiveness, and prior successes in obtaining federal funding with internal grant funds. In the case of equivalently-rated proposals, a preference will be given to proposals that span three areas or disciplines.

Award Process and Notification

All applications are reviewed and assigned scores by members of the Executive Committee, which serves as a review panel. The Executive Committee or the Center Director may request additional reviews from other faculty with relevant expertise. Awardees will be notified by e-mail by late February.

Basic Awardee Responsibilities for All Awards

1. Maintain relevant budgetary and substantive documentation of the activity.
2. Present the project research at an LRDC faculty meeting, typically during its second year. A brief update on the project at a faculty meeting is expected during the first year.
3. Submit a final report of the project to the LRDC Director that includes an assessment the project's influence on future research directions. This report is due within two months of the formal fiscal end of the project.

Applications due February 14, 2022

Award announcements: by February 28, 2022

Typical start date: July 1, 2022