ICS Pilot Fund Program

The mission of ICS is to '***understand and enhance human cognition, learning, and development through the creation of interdisciplinary partnerships***'. ICS is continuing its pilot fund in 2024-25, which will work to support pilot studies (new research projects that require preliminary or pilot data) that may be considered ***high-risk, high-reward*** and will subsequently launch new research projects and grant submissions aligned with the ICS mission. This program is aimed at funding new interdisciplinary projects between ICS faculty/fellows with the expectation that these projects will lead to competitive grant proposals and/or launching new research initiatives within ICS.

We anticipate that most awards will be in the $10,000 to $15,000 range. However, larger studies going up to $25,000 will be considered if there is a well-justified reason to do so; for example, the cost of running fMRI participants. We aim to fund 2-4 projects each year.

The application includes (1) a very brief form to fill out and (2) a separate research proposal, which should include:
1. Proposal (2-3 pages - **not** to exceed 3 pages, excluding references):
    a. Brief background (what is the problem) and significance (why is it important)
    b. Proposed method(s), research questions, expected results
    c. How will this pilot study lead to new grant proposals? Be specific about which programs you might apply to and the anticipated proposal application timeline.
2. Budget and Justification (one [1] page): Please detail the budget/requested funds in a budget table and describe how the requested funds will be used with written justification. Please see the 'Important Budget Notes' at the end of this document for some things to keep in mind.

For new investigators, ICS will work with you as your pilot study nears completion to develop a concrete plan for moving towards the planned proposal submission. We will make sure you have the advice and resources needed to put together this grant application.

For any proposed projects using the MRI: please contact Dr. Nicole Speer (INC Director of Research Services; nicole.speer@colorado.edu) and/or Dr. Lena Sherbakov (INC Assistant Director of MRI Data and Analysis Services;

lena.sherbakov@colorado.edu) *BEFORE* submitting your application to discuss your project and its timeline, constraints, requirements, and feasibility.
Please also make sure to consider your data needs and associated expenditures on top of the scanning costs (e.g., using FlyWheel incurs separate and additional costs). Nicole and Lena will be able to help you with these.

In order to be eligible for these funds, the following conditions must be met:

1. **The lead applicant must be rostered within ICS** (either tenure-track, research professors, or research scientists) **and be permanent faculty** (Level 2 Research Scientists or Research Professors). ICS Fellows are welcome to participate and should partner with someone rostered in ICS that fulfills the above conditions.
2. Any future funding that arises from the pilot funding must be submitted through ICS for administration and management.
3. There is an expectation that the money should be spent within 12 months of receiving it (with a possible extension mechanism of up to 12 months).
4. If an applicant applies a second time after receiving funds the first time, they will be required to submit evidence of effectiveness of their first application (e.g., how did the award lead to new grant applications and/or external funding?).

The funds **cannot** be used for bridging salary support when there is a gap between grants.

Process:
1. Submissions are due on **Friday, October 25, 2024**. Please submit through this link, which includes a space to upload attachments.
    a. You are allowed to edit your submission until the due date/time through the online form. When you are ready to submit, please hit the 'submit' button.
    b. The online submission portal will close on the due date/time.
2. Submissions will be checked for compliance to all requirements, page limits, conditions, listed above.
3. Submissions will be sent to 2 anonymous reviewers within ICS (all faculty and fellows are eligible to be reviewers). Reviewers will be asked to review based on similarity between their own expertise and the submitted grant, while controlling for conflicts of interests. Reviewers will provide feedback and recommendation on funding (accept or reject). They will be asked to rate the following criteria out of 5 points each for a total of 15 points:
    a. Innovativeness and interdisciplinarity
    b. Quality of research design & appropriateness of budget

      c. Likelihood of leading to a successful grant application
4. Should the number of well-reviewed applications exceed our funding capacity, ICS Leadership will make final decisions regarding which projects to fund based on the feedback of the reviewers and funds available.

Important Budget Notes:

For salary support please determine the fringe costs. Please use the following fringe rates:

Employee Group	*Rate*
Regular Faculty	31%
Full-time Professional Exempt & Research Faculty, Classified permanent FT & PT, All except LASP	40%
Part-time Professional Exempt & Research Faculty & Temp. Classified	14.6%
Student Faculty	11.4%
Hourly	1.8%

Anyone above 50% FTE is considered full-time for the purposes of fringe calculations.

Things to keep in mind:
- Internal CU employees cannot be hired as consultants; they must be hired as regular salary support and will most likely need to be hired through the Additional Pay Form (APF) mechanism.
- Official functions **must** use PSC regulations (e.g., there cannot be official functions for an event that only has internal CU employees, there cannot be alcohol served). Please see this site for information on what counts as an official function: https://www.cu.edu/controller/procedures/finance-procedural-statements/finance-procedural-statement-official-functions.
- Equipment purchases are ultimately the property of ICS.