CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: TIFF AWARD

The Trifecta Initiative Facilitating Funds Award: 2017-2018

The Trifecta Initiative seeks to support federal grant applications authored by faculty in the colleges of Communication Arts & Sciences, Engineering, and Nursing at MSU. Facilitating funding is designed to provide investigators with additional support and resources to enhance/finalize their federal grant submissions.

Purpose of the Trifecta Initiative:

The Colleges of Communication Arts & Sciences, Engineering, and Nursing at Michigan State University have joined forces to create the Trifecta Initiative—a winning partnership of three innovative colleges. With support and investment from all three colleges, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Trifecta is a launch-pad for interdisciplinary development of innovative computing and communication technologies to improve healthcare and address health disparities.

Facilitating Funds Award:

The purpose of the Facilitating Funds Award is not to simply fund small studies or pilot projects. Instead, the goal is to assist in facilitating the finalizing of a federally funded NIH/NSF grant ideas and proposals that are already in the planning stage (e.g., a team is identified; preliminary work has begun; components of the federal application like the Specific Aims page is partially developed). For this academic year, support for up to six projects, two from each of the three Initiative colleges, may be awarded. Each team may request up to $5000 in facilitating funds. In addition, funding will be available to each awarded team to support at least one (more may be available) registration for the day-long grantsmanship workshop sponsored by Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (“Write Winning Grant Proposals”) on January 4, 2018.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Trifecta Facilitating Funds Award, the following criteria must be met:

● The submitting faculty (Principal Investigator) must be from one of the three Trifecta Initiative colleges. The PI must be the PI on the planned federal proposal. A submission by a PI who is a lead co-investigator of a portion of a federal proposal (e.g. subcontract) may be considered if justification is shown.
● At least one co-investigator in the larger federal proposal must have a primary academic home in at least one of the other two Initiative colleges. Other co-investigators (including students) from non-Trifecta Initiative colleges may be listed as part of the proposal.
● The PI must submit quarterly updates to the Trifecta Initiative Director (or designee) about progress of the federal proposal and the project generally.
● The federal proposal must have a submission date no later than February 2019.
● The team must utilize at least one VPRG resources (e.g., writing consultants, grant Workshops and Events) during the proposal development. This is in addition to the “Write Winning Grant Proposals” which will be provided to the funded teams from the first submission. See potential resources at https://vprgs.msu.edu/proposal-prep.
● Any presentations and publications that result from these support funds must include the following label: “Support for this project was in part provided by the Trifecta Initiative at MSU.”
Application Procedure:

The application process was designed to be a simple extension of a started federal application. To apply, please submit the Facilitating Funds Award template as one PDF document to trifecta@msu.edu. The filename should be as follows: “[PI last name] - TIFF Award 2017-18.pdf”. The application contains the following parts:

1. Page 1: The Cover Page includes the following: (1) The title of the larger planned federal proposal; (2) The Principle Investigator (include primary and secondary affiliations); (2) co-investigators (including affiliations) with 1-2 sentences for each describing their contribution to the larger planned proposal; (3) RFA or other program announcement the larger application is responding to, the program officer associated with the planned submission, and deadline for application submission. Finally, enter the Project Narrative (<150 words) for the larger project.

2. Page 2: The most recent draft of the larger proposal’s Specific Aims page (must match formatting guidelines of the federal mechanism).

3. Page 3: Briefly describe the larger proposal’s Significance (70-word limit), Innovation (70-word limit), and Impact (70-word limit). In less than 500 words, describe why these funds are needed to help finalize the larger application (e.g., student support to do analysis, travel to a conference to present data) and how these funds will increase your chances of a successful federal funding proposal.

4. Page 4: Top half of page: Provide a timeline to federal funding submission, including major events and milestones which must be completed (e.g. names and dates of conference to present data, when to talk to program officer, meeting with college pre-award budget personnel, VPRGS workshops, MSU internal approval). Bottom half of page: Short budget plan, with justification for expenses. Eligible expenses include: support for graduate or undergraduate research assistants, statisticians, or other personnel needs, small supplies needed to conduct supporting pilot research, course releases, travel to a conference to present data, publication costs, travel for data collection, incentives for participants, and other expenses that are necessary to prepare a federal grant submission. Questions regarding eligible expenses can be directed to the Trifecta Initiative Director.

Key dates

First submission and funding opportunity for Fall 2017:

First Submission deadline for applications: Monday, November 20, 2017
First Submission awards will be announced: Friday, December 20, 2017

Per available funding, a second submission/review will take place early 2018:

Second Submission deadline for applications: Monday, January 15, 2017
Second Submission awards will be announced: Friday, February 16, 2017

If you have questions regarding Trifecta or the Facilitating Funds Award, please email Eric Hunter with the subject line: Facilitating Funds Award in the subject heading. To join our listserv, send an email to trifecta@msu.edu with your name, department affiliation, and preferred email address.

Good luck!

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