

Center for Food Systems and Sustainability (CENFOODS)  
Competitive Seed Grant Program  
Request for Applications

Total Seed Grant Budget: \$400,000. Each award is not expected to exceed \$40,000

Proposal Deadline: July 16, 2018 at 5:00pm

Project period: No earlier than August 15, 2018 to no later than May 31, 2020

Submit to: [cenfoods@udel.edu](mailto:cenfoods@udel.edu)

**Purpose and priorities of the Center for Food Systems and Sustainability Competitive Seed Grant Program**

The purpose of the Center for Food Systems and Sustainability Competitive Seed Grant Program is to foster new research collaborations that will facilitate teams to be competitive for larger funding opportunities that align with CENFOODS goals or to address local-to-regional issues related to environmental and/or food systems sustainability or food justice. Proposals must address one of these goals.

For research proposals, priority will be given to proposals that 1) incorporate extension, outreach, or teaching components; 2) demonstrate clear linkages between food and soil or water, water and energy, food and energy, or geohealth and sustainability; 3) incorporate natural and social sciences; and/or 4) engage junior faculty. Meeting all four of these criterion are encouraged but not required. Types of research projects likely to be funded by this program include:

- soil and water quality
- sustainable food systems, landscapes, and ecosystems

For projects addressing local or regional issues related to environmental or food sustainability or food justice, priority will be given to projects that 1) have local or regional stakeholder support and involvement, 2) are multidisciplinary, 3) can provide solutions or practices that can be implemented quickly. Types of local or regional projects likely to be funded by this program include:

- food waste composting and/or biogas production
- food pantry

**Solicitation and Oversight of Proposals and Projects**

The Director of the Center for Food Systems and Sustainability will be responsible for soliciting and receiving research proposals, and facilitating a selection process to identify and determine funding eligibility for the proposals. The Department of Plant and Soil Sciences will be responsible for ensuring that funds received are properly accounted for and the awardees home department will be responsible for general grants administration.

## **Funding Level and Project Duration**

Most projects will not exceed \$40,000 and the amount requested must align with the nature of the proposed work. Proposals that request more than \$40,000 may be considered, but the need for the excessive cost must be justified. Project start dates should be on or after August 15, 2018. All funds must be expended by May 31, 2020.

## **Criteria for Project Selection**

Eligibility and Project Team. Lead PIs must be full time faculty (tenure-track, tenured, or continuing track) at the University of Delaware who are affiliated with the Center for Food Systems and Sustainability (CENFOODS). Potential Lead PIs should email [cenfoods@udel.edu](mailto:cenfoods@udel.edu) to ensure they are affiliated with CENFOODS prior to the application deadline. Single-investigator projects will not be funded, so at least one Co-PI must be included. All projects must involve a new collaboration and provide justification of the new collaboration.

Quality and Nature of the Proposal. The proposal must clearly articulate the need for the project, the project objectives and plans to achieve them, and the outcomes and societal benefits.

Plans to Seek Future Funding. All projects must include plans for seeking future funding and the funding sources and funding levels expected.

## **Procedures for Submission and Review of Proposals**

Complete proposals must be submitted as a single pdf document as an email attachment with "CENFOODS SEED GRANT PROPOSAL" in the subject line to [cenfoods@udel.edu](mailto:cenfoods@udel.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2018. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of faculty including the Center director, and award decisions will be made on or before August 15, 2018. All applicants will be notified of award status via email.

## **Project Accountability and Reporting**

By receiving an award, the Lead PI agrees to:

- 1) ensure the quality of the project and expend all monies within the time frame specified in the research agreement;
- 2) submit a final, written report no later than three months after the end date of the project. The report should be submitted electronically to [cenfoods@udel.edu](mailto:cenfoods@udel.edu)
- 3) present findings and the impact of their work in appropriate venues; and
- 4) submit a grant proposal to support a project directly related to the proposed work within two years from the acceptance of the award, and to notify the CENFOODS director about this submission by e-mail to [cenfoods@udel.edu](mailto:cenfoods@udel.edu)

## **Proposal Preparation and Budget**

All proposals must include the following components.

1. Cover Sheet (one page) that includes

- a. Project title
  - b. Project start and end dates
  - c. Project type (research to build collaboration or local-to-regional issue related to CENFOODS goals)
  - d. Name, title, department, college, and university of Lead PI and Co-PI(s). Phone number and email address of lead PI.
2. Project Description (1 inch margins and minimum 11pt font, 4 pages maximum exclusive of literature cited)
    - a. Non-technical summary
    - b. Project justification and background
    - c. Relation to and justification of required criteria (new collaboration or solving local-to-regional issue) and priority funding criteria
    - d. Project objectives and deliverables
    - e. Methodology
    - f. Timeline
    - g. Plan to secure future funding
    - h. Literature cited
  3. Budget and Justification
    - a. Examples of budget items that may be included are graduate student stipend or technical assistance and associated fringe, graduate tuition (up to 20% according to UD policy), small equipment, supplies, analytical costs and travel. Faculty salary, indirect costs, and large equipment may not be requested.
    - b. Each cost must be justified and in line with the scope of the project
  4. Current and Pending Support in NSF format
  5. Biosketch for each investigator in NSF format (2 pages maximum)