



2022 BOAT Grants

Broadening Opportunities And Teams Seed Grant Program

2022 SAFES Broadening Opportunities And Teams (BOAT) Grant Program Description:

The Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science (SAFES) will provide funding to help build pathways for early-career, tenure-track research faculty seeking to join Established Research Programs (ERPs) at Penn State. Seed funding in this program may be used to expand existing research teams with the inclusion of early-career faculty, to broaden the scope or research areas of a program by integrating new faculty members, or to support early career faculty in pursuing funding and collaboration opportunities with agencies where a past history of working with the agency is a critical element of developing the investigator-sponsor relationship.

Applicants should have an identified Established Research Program (ERP) at Penn State and should work with the project's primary investigator to determine the goals for leveraging this seed grant funding. A letter of recommendation from the ERP's PI will be required, but the seed grant applicant is expected to be responsible for the application and the management of the grant. ERPs that are appropriate for this seed grant will have been funded consistently over a period of 5+ years, and/or be funded for 2+ years into the future.

Examples of possible projects:

- Hold a workshop to explore expansion of the ERP's areas of inquiry, with a stated aim of bringing new faculty into the ERP;
- Purchase datasets or data-related services to enable the seed grant applicant to work on a new aspect of the ERP;
- Fund additional fieldwork, data collection, or analysis projects that bring the seed grant applicant into the work of the ERP;
- Purchase Penn State [shared core services](#) that bring the seed grant applicant into the work of the ERP;
- Summer stipends for graduate students or wage payroll positions for research support that enables the goals of the BOAT grants;
- Other research activities that support the integration of the seed grant applicant's expertise into ERPs.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenure-track College of Agricultural Sciences faculty who hold a full-time appointment at University Park or any Penn State Commonwealth Campus are eligible to apply. Early Career faculty can include Assistant or Associate professors; Associates should not be three years beyond tenure.

Other researchers (students, postdocs, staff, agency employees, or Penn State Extension employees) may be included as collaborators. The seed grant applicant is expected to be responsible for the application and the management of the grant. Investigators may only serve as PI on one BOAT proposal.

AWARD

SAFES will provide funding to awardees in the College of Agricultural Sciences of up to \$15,000 to support research collaborations; it is generally expected that most awards will be in the \$5,000 to \$8,500 range.

SAFES offers post-award support for institute members. Awards should be used within 18 months.

Funds cannot be used for graduate student tuition, faculty salary (including supplement), standing appointment salaries of Penn State employees, or conference travel. Subawards to external institutions will not be allowed.

SUBMISSION & REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline to apply for the 2022 SAFES-BOAT Grant Program will be February 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Proposals must be submitted through <https://psu.infoready4.com>. The 2022 SAFES BOAT Grant may be found in the Seed Grants section.

- **Proposal**

All proposals should include:

- A narrative (no more than 3 pages) that outlines:
 - A very brief description of the Established Research Program and how the applicant's expertise is synergistic;
 - A description of the significance of the project and how it will enable the integration of the applicant into an ERP, including details on the proposed research plan, objectives, and timeline;
 - How the proposal will positively impact the applicant's research program; impacts that support future funding opportunities will be considered favorably;
 - A description and justification for all budget items;
 - A description of how the proposal was created with support and input from the ERP's PI, and how the seed grant will support future funding plans.
- A list of the collaborators and their organizations; research programs must be led by primary investigators in the College of Agricultural Sciences.
- A letter of recommendation from the Established Research Program's Primary Investigator.**
- Please provide the complete title of the research program, the funding agency or sponsor, as well as the start and end date of the associated award.

- ❑ A two-page CV for the seed grant applicant and collaborators in a similar format to USDA or NSF requirements.

REVIEW CRITERIA

In addition to the requirements listed above, proposals will be considered using the following criteria:

- Proposals from SAFES Associate and Affiliate members will be considered favorably
- Scientific merit and innovation
- Support from the ERP's primary investigator
- The likelihood that SAFES funding will effectively support the ability of the applicant to become an integrated member of the ERP
- Programs that are an appropriate match for the size of the award
- Programs that show promise for pursuing new external funding opportunities will be considered favorably

DECISION TIMEFRAME

Proposals will be evaluated by a faculty panel using the criteria listed above, and the SAFES Director will make the final funding decision. Applicants will be notified of awards on or before March 31, 2022.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS

SAFES and the College of Agricultural Sciences Office for Research and Graduate Education encourages assistant-level applicants to complement these awards with faculty development funds available through the College's Joan Luerssen Faculty Enhancement Fund and the Horace T. Woodward Faculty Development Fund. The purpose of these funds is to support the professional development of early-career faculty. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis:
<https://agsci.psu.edu/research/resources/funding/joan-luerssen-faculty-enhancement-fund-and-the-horace-t-woodward-faculty-development-fund-in-agricultural-sciences>.

QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding applications or the seed grant competition should be directed via email to safes@psu.edu.

Edited: 12/10/2021