

SAFES-RISE 2022 SEED GRANT PROGRAM

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DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science (SAFES), along with the Institute for Computational and Data Sciences (ICDS), are pleased to offer faculty in the College of Agricultural Sciences the opportunity to apply for funding through the SAFES-RISE 2022 Seed Grant Program.

The ICDS Research Innovations with Scientists and Engineering (RISE) team is comprised of computational scientists and software engineers who specialize in assisting Penn State investigators who would like to enhance or build research programs that need computing, programming, data management, data visualization/exploration, or workflow support. More information about RISE services can be found here: <https://www.icds.psu.edu/computing-services/riase>.

The goal of the SAFES-RISE 2022 Seed Grant Program is to build and facilitate computational and data science support for research projects in the SAFES research themes. For reference, a list of current SAFES Critical Issue Initiatives can be found here: <https://agsci.psu.edu/safes/research/critical-issues>. Past awardees can be found here: <https://edit.agsci.psu.edu/safes/research/safes-seed-grant-competitions/safes-rise-2021-seed-grant-competition>

Proposals may support new or existing research programs that seek to increase research impact, grow faculty expertise in data and computing, or overcome hurdles in implementing such programs. Projects may utilize the expertise in RISE in data management platform creation, computing, programming, data visualization, and data exploration.

ELIGIBILITY

All College of Agricultural Sciences faculty (tenured, tenure track, and fixed term) who hold an appointment of half-time or greater at University Park or any Penn State Commonwealth Campus are eligible to apply. Other researchers (students, postdocs, staff, agency employees, or Penn State Extension employees) may be included as collaborators. The Principal Investigator is expected to be responsible for the application and the management of the grant. Investigators may only serve as PI on one proposal.

AWARD

It is estimated that most awardees will receive 100-150 hours of RISE consulting time; it is generally expected that most seed grant projects in this program will have a duration of 3 to 6 months. Awards are not provided in cash, and awards may only be used to purchase RISE services.

Funds cannot be used for graduate student tuition, faculty supplemental salary, or conference travel. Awards should be used within one year. Subawards to external institutions will not be allowed.

SUBMISSION & REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline to apply for the 2022 SAFES-RISE Seed Grant Program will be **May 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

Proposals must be submitted through: <https://psu.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1869165>

- **Proposal**

Applicants will submit an application via the form listed above. In providing brief summaries of their proposed RISE support needs, applicants should describe the significance of the project and how RISE support may enable the pursuit of new external funding opportunities, or greatly improve the scope and scale of currently funded projects. All proposals should include:

- A description of the data, computing, or programming challenge that the RISE team could work to solve. Such descriptions may include, but are not limited to: needed data workflows; a requirements list for custom programming products; how RISE consulting or deliverables will increase efficiency, optimize research processes, or enable better visualization or analysis for project data; how the project may create an innovative solution to a research method or program management issue; or how the collaboration would increase Penn State's faculty expertise in these areas.
- Information about how this project relates to one or multiple SAFES research themes.
- Research programs must be led by primary investigators in the College of Agricultural Sciences; projects that include co-investigators from other colleges, Commonwealth Campuses or institutes will be considered favorably.
- A two-page CV for investigators 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:

- Research programs from SAFES Associate and Affiliate members will be considered favorably
- Scientific merit and innovation;
- The likelihood that RISE Support will improve outcomes or effectiveness of the research project;
- Programs that are an appropriate match for RISE's service portfolio;
- Programs that are an appropriate match for the size of the award relative to the RISE staff support required to successfully implement the project;
- Programs that show promise for pursuing new external funding opportunities will be considered favorably;
- Projects or PIs have not received previous ICDS-RISE seed funding from SAFES.

DECISION TIMEFRAME

Applicants will be notified of awards in June 2022; work will be scheduled with ICDS starting in the Fall semester of 2022.

QUESTIONS

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