**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

*The Research Support Program is a strategically focused investment strategy that promotes promising and impactful new lines of research as well as the growth of collaborative and/or interdisciplinary teams to build the foundations of science, to overcome scientific and societal challenges and to promote and enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of individuals, groups, and communities.*

This initial call for proposals is being viewed as a pilot program that will provide the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPRED) an opportunity to experience a small-scale version of a larger intramural award program before a long-term commitment to the award program is made. The pilot provides a platform to test what works and what does not. It allows for an adjustment to the strategy for full-scale implementation hopefully in the fall of 2021. The pilot is flexible enough to adapt as uptake or information increases.

\* With this background it is important to note that **The OVPRED will fund external reviews for up to five (5) proposals from each constituent school or college that participates in the intramural award programs (i.e., across RSP and CWSIS combined). In addition, the OVPRED will fund between eight (8) and 12 proposals from both the CWSIS Program and the RSP Program in toto, not per program. This first year being a pilot program, the five-proposal limit and the proposal funding cap will allow the OVPRED to evaluate the services availed during the proposal review process and focus resources for a larger program in the fall.**

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This competitive program is intended to be an annual cycle funding program to foster the development and growth of innovative and transformational research activities. The RSP builds on faculty expertise, stimulates interdisciplinary collaborations, and strengthens seed research activities. Research activities supported by the RSP will enhance the visibility and recognition of Auburn University as well as have a strong potential to attract extramural funding for sustained research efforts. Investing in RSP supports the University’s strategic plan by elevating scholarly impact, investing in outstanding people who advance the university’s mission, and providing an elevated Auburn experience for our students.

The RSP funding opportunity includes the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines as well as the medical, life, health, and social sciences. However, collaborative roles with creative work and social impact scholarship disciplines are also strongly encouraged. Teams developing these types of submissions should determine whether the proposal fits more with RSP or with CWSIS and submit to the best fitting program area.  Interdisciplinary research proposals submitted to the RSP may have funding/resource needs outside of typical RSP proposals.  Collaborative teams should consult with the ADR’s associated with their colleges/schools for input and guidance.

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPRED) announces the 2021 call for proposals for the RSP. **Proposals for 2021 are due by 4:45 p.m. on March 24, 2021.** Proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation during the month of April through a two-step process: **(1st step; down select)** conducted by ADRs and their faculty review teams, and **(2nd step)** conducted by an external reviewer and possibly an internal faculty member.

Funding for all RSP grants is for a two-year period. Successful awards are contingent upon a 1:1 required match from the college/school/department.

**Click here for** [**RS**](https://cws.auburn.edu/ovpr/pm/RSP/home)**P information.**

For additional assistance, please contact Dr. Bob Holm (programmatic assistance; rzh0021@auburn.edu, 4-5877) or Ms. Giovana Brannan (administrative/financial assistance; brannsg@auburn.edu 4-4784).

**Key Dates:**

January 25, 2021 Request for Proposals Window Opens

March 24, 2021 Proposals Due (no later than 4:45 pm)

April 1-30, 2021 Proposal Review

May 14, 2021 OVPRED will finalize and approve funding decisions; final decisions will be emailed to lead PIs