

Dean's Fund for Scientific Advancement 2020 Transformation Award RFA

Anticipated Deadline: October 2020

Submission requirements: All applications should be submitted through the Harvard University Funding Portal (HUFPP). See below for more information on submission via HUFPP.

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The **Dean's Fund for Scientific Advancement** expands the School's internal research funding program with the goal of creating a funding pipeline that extends from exploration of early ideas, to the development of strong collaborative teams, through to supporting transformative science. Transformation Awards represent the fourth and final component of the Dean's Fund for Scientific Advancement and are large investments designed to take exceptional Acceleration Research projects to the next level.

OVERVIEW AND GOALS OF THE TRANSFORMATION AWARD

The Transformation Award is designed to support projects previously funded by Acceleration Research Grants, for which there is already a strong proof of concept and clear transformative potential (e.g. implementation, scale up, clinical translation, product development). The goal is to position awardees to be highly competitive for larger external collaborative grant mechanisms (e.g. P01s). **Only former Acceleration research grant awardees are eligible to apply for transformational research awards**, understanding that the Transformation Award applications may reflect minor or major changes in scope and personnel based on the results from the Acceleration Award. Transformation Award applicants must have demonstrated significant Acceleration Award outcomes and sufficient evidence that additional School investment will lead to substantial progress on an outcome, such as understanding a mechanism of disease, reducing a scientific barrier, or supporting translation to scale. The goal of the Transformation Award is to increase the impact of the School's science, build collaborations across the University, and position faculty to be competitive for external center and program project awards.

Transformation Award applications will require the substantial engagement of at least two Harvard Chan School Departments or Centers, and must include collaboration from at least one other Harvard School. The projects must be interdisciplinary at their core.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT SUPPORT

Grant awardees will receive additional support from the Office of Research Strategy and Development (ORSDD) and the Office for External Relations (OER). Specifically, ORSD will work with teams to identify and link them to additional resources and collaborators as needed. There will be two check-ins with ORSD staff (at the start of the project and mid-way through) to identify any roadblocks and facilitate solutions, with additional assistance provided at other points as needed.

Each team will have at least one meeting with OER to learn about processes for cultivating external philanthropic opportunities. In addition, teams will work with OER's communications arm to develop an outcomes memo aimed at policy makers, donors, and the public to support knowledge dissemination at the end of the funding period.

AWARD AMOUNT AND DURATION

Awards will be for up to \$500,000 (direct cost) for a 2-year project period. An automatic 6-month no-cost extension will be granted if needed, after which no additional extensions will be granted.

ELIGIBILITY

Principal investigators must be:

- Previously awarded a Harvard Chan School Acceleration Research Grant
- Harvard Chan School faculty of any rank who have a primary appointment at the Harvard Chan School

Applications must include:

- Coinvestigators from at least two Harvard Chan School Departments or Centers, representing interdisciplinary collaboration teams

- Collaboration with at least one other Harvard School

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to apply for this award, please contact Heather Conrad at hconrad@hsph.harvard.edu.

COLLABORATION REQUIREMENT DETAILS

- The grant application will include a required section called “Interdisciplinary Approach and Coordination” for applicants to explicitly describe how the proposed project is interdisciplinary in nature.
- In this section, applicants should describe how collaboration across Harvard Chan School Departments or Centers and at least one other Harvard School will be operationalized. Topics to be addressed include communication, shared decision-making, conflict resolution, personnel decisions, management of changes in study protocol, and authorship. Administrative and technical responsibilities should also be outlined.
- An example of a collaborative approach could include a shared student or postdoctoral fellow working with investigators from multiple departments or Schools. Other models for operationalizing collaboration may include provisions for regular co-investigators and team meetings or agreements for shared resources and equipment as appropriate.
- In the last three months of the funding period, all co-investigators on awarded teams will be expected to participate in a half day workshop where, working as teams, they will plan the next phase of the funded project.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposals are to be submitted through the [Harvard University Funding Portal](#) (HUFPP). If you are using the application portal for the first time, you must complete a short registration process (see below). Please note, you can search for awards without logging in but you must be registered and logged in with your Harvard Key to submit an application. There is an option to assign a proxy for proposal submission but your grant manager cannot use your Harvard Key to submit your application. Please contact ORSD if you have any questions about using HUFPP.

To Register: Select “Log-in” in the top right corner of the HUFPP webpage, which will bring you to a log-in page with two options. Select the “with Harvard Key” icon, which will prompt you to enter your Harvard Key. You will be led through a short three-question registration process. Once registered, you will be able to log in with your Harvard Key to submit applications.

PROPOSAL CONTENTS AND PAGE LIMITS

You must complete all sections within the application portal before submitting your applications. The sections within the application portal are as follows:

1. Applicant Information
2. Collaborators
3. Project Information: In this section, you must complete a 200-word research abstract and upload the following documents as a single PDF:
 - Project Proposal: Maximum of 3 pages of text, not including items 2-5 listed below. Figures and references are allowable in addition to this page limit. No other appendix material will be accepted.
 - Interdisciplinary Approach & Coordination Form. Maximum of 1 page of text. Use this [Downloadable Form](#) as a template.
 - Biosketch: Current [NIH Biosketch](#) for each participating investigator.
 - Budget Request: Budget estimates should be submitted on [NIH PHS 398 detailed budget form](#) with major divisions of funds (personnel, equipment, etc.). PIs may include effort and salary support commensurate with their effort. The full amount of the award may be used for direct costs.
 - Budget Justification
4. Electronic Signature

APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a standing committee of faculty with broad representation across the School’s three disciplinary clusters (life sciences, quantitative sciences, social & policy sciences). The purpose of the Transformation Award is to support projects that are radically different in scale, scope, and complexity, and promise real and

measurable progress in solving a critical problem in public health. Reviewers will evaluate applications based on the following review criteria:

- The application must include evidence of a plan for the project to reach the “next stage” of research within the 2-year timeframe.
- Successful applications will make a compelling case that articulates both the public health need to be addressed and specific goals regarding the impact to be achieved with the aid of the grant.
- Applications should demonstrate the potential for securing external center and program project awards following successful completion of the project.
- Project goals should emphasize not only the critical importance of the problem, but should also provide a solution that is verifiable, durable, and feasible.

Additional Application Guidelines:

- While collaboration with Harvard Schools is required, the application and budget justification must provide clear scientific justification for subcontracts with external collaborators.
- Funds may be used to support project-related expenses incurred by collaborators working in other Schools at Harvard University, but funds cannot provide salary support for faculty outside of the Harvard Chan School whose salaries are already covered by institutional funds.
- Although not required, special consideration will be given to projects that include collaboration and integration of junior faculty in a meaningful way.
- Special consideration will also be given to projects that include a diversity or inclusion element, the nature of which will vary considerably depending on the project. Some examples are prioritizing under-represented groups for inclusion in the study population, hiring study staff from under-served communities, or developing a health equity-related study aim.

FINAL REPORT

A final report will be due 30 calendar days after the end of the funding period that summarizes the impact of the project and progress towards broader dissemination of knowledge. The final report must include a draft of the outcomes memo described in the “Additional Project Support” section above. A final report template will be sent to awardees one-month prior to the close of the award.

STUDENT SUPPORT SUPPLEMENT

Student Thesis or Dissertation Supplement – Applicant teams may submit an application of up to \$15,000 in additional funds to cover thesis– or dissertation-related expenses including (but not limited to) student stipends, travel expenses, translation costs, or publication costs in instances where the student is first author.

The supplement must support work within the scope of the proposed Transformation Award. Supplement applications must be submitted at the same time as the Transformation application, however there will be a separate application process within the HUFPP portal and supplements will be reviewed in a separate administrative evaluation process following the receipt of an award.

Supplemental Application Contents and Page Limits: Proposals are to be submitted through the [Harvard University Funding Portal](#) (HUFPP). Within the application portal, there will be an online form requesting standard information related to the project:

- Applicant Information Form

In addition, the following documents should be uploaded to HUFPP as a single PDF:

- (1) Project Proposal: Maximum of 1 page of text, not including items 2-4 listed below. Figures and references are allowable in addition to this page limit. No other appendix material will be accepted.
- (2) Letter of Support from student’s mentor.
- (3) Biosketch: Student’s Current [NIH Biosketch](#).

- (4) Budget Request: Budget estimates should be submitted on [NIH PHS 398 detailed budget form](#) with major divisions of funds (personnel, equipment, etc.).

The administrative review criteria described below will be considered in the Supplement review process:

- Are the proposed activities described in the Supplement application related to and/or within the scope of the Transformation Award?
- Is the budget and funding period fully justified and reasonable in relation to the activities proposed in the Supplement application?
- Review will focus on the qualifications of the candidate including career goals, prior research training, research potential, and relevant experience in relation to the overall goals of the Transformation Award.