

Dean's Fund for Scientific Advancement 2021 Incubation Award RFA

Deadline: June 21, 2021 at 11:59 PM

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

Contact regarding questions: Elizabeth Sylvester at esyvester@hsph.harvard.edu or visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of the ORSD website.

The **Dean's Fund for Scientific Advancement** expands the School's internal research funding program and is designed to create a pipeline of support that facilitates the exploration of early ideas, the development of strong interdisciplinary team science, and the creation of new transformative research collaborations that advance the frontiers of science. Incubation Awards represent a critical component of the funding program and are intended to support innovative ideas of particular promise.

OVERVIEW AND GOALS OF THE INCUBATION AWARD

The goal of the Incubation Award is to support strategic investments that foster rapid innovation and advance our shared vision for a stronger, more dynamic, and more globally engaged school. This year, we anticipate making two awards with generous support from the McLennan Family Fund.

McLennan Family Fund: 2021 Research Priorities

Proposals will be accepted from across disciplines and may relate to a broad range of research topics in any of the School's five frontier areas.

1. Reimagining Aging
2. Overcoming Violence
3. Confronting Climate Change
4. Cultivating Well-being and Nutrition
5. Conquering Epidemics

This year, with shifting dynamics at the international and national levels and the increased need for public health solutions to global challenges, we are encouraging applications that address not only a frontier area, but also integrate at least one of the following cross-cutting themes: (1) systemic and structural racism; (2) pandemic response and the secondary effects of COVID-19; or (3) misinformation and disinformation.

AWARD AMOUNT AND DURATION

Awards will be for \$50,000 (direct cost) for projects that are designed to be completed in a 12-month project period. An automatic 6-month no-cost extension will be granted if needed, after which no additional extensions will be allowed.

ELIGIBILITY

Primary Harvard Chan School faculty whose research operation is based at the Harvard Chan School are eligible to apply. Co-investigators or team members may include individuals with any academic appointment. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to apply for this award, please contact Elizabeth Sylvester at esyvester@hsph.harvard.edu or visit the Dean's Fund [FAQ](#) page.

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 see below for more information on registering for an account and assigning a proxy.

Registering your HUFPP Account: 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.

Assigning a Proxy for Submission: Before beginning an application, both proxy and PI must register for individual accounts in HUFPP using their Harvard Key credentials. Once the proxy and the PI are registered, the proxy can begin an application on behalf of the PI. The Proxy will indicate that they are a proxy applicant and will be asked to locate their PI in HUFPP. Proxies should never "Add User" in HUFPP. Once this is done, both the PI and the proxy will be able to access and edit the application.

Please contact ORSD (esyvester@hsph.harvard.edu) if you have any questions about using HUFPP.

PROPOSAL CONTENTS AND PAGE LIMITS

You must complete all sections within the application portal before submitting your application. 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 4 pages of text, not including items listed below. Figures and references are allowable in addition to this page limit. No other appendix material will be accepted.
 - 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 Incubation Award is to support innovative ideas of particular promise. As such, reviewers will evaluate applications based on the following review criteria:

- a. **Overall Impact:** The likelihood of the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the review criteria below.
- b. **Significance:** The extent to which the application addresses an important problem or a critical barrier in one of the identified priority areas (Reimagining Aging; Overcoming Violence; Confronting Climate Change; Cultivating Well-being and Nutrition; Conquering Epidemics).
- c. **Innovation:** The extent to which the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- d. **Feasibility:** The extent to which the application demonstrates that measurable results are achievable within an 18-month timeframe.

Additional Application Guidelines:

- **Preliminary data:** Because the goal of the program is to foster rapid innovation in response to real-world problems, preliminary data will not be required as part of the application process.
- **Subcontracts:** External collaboration is permitted in cases where there is a clear scientific rationale for why the work needs to be done externally. A letter describing the subcontractor's commitment to the work outlined in the proposal and the scope of their contribution should be submitted at the time of application. All other paperwork needed to set up the subcontract can be submitted if and when the project is funded.
- **Outside spending/salary support:** Funds may be used for project-related expenses at other Harvard Schools, though they cannot provide salary support for faculty outside of the Harvard Chan School whose salaries are

already fully covered by institutional funds.

- **Indirect costs:** Indirect costs should not be included. The full award should be used to support direct project costs.

REPORTING

- A mid-term progress report will be due 9 months following the start of the funding period. A progress report template will be sent to awardees one-month prior to the due date.
- A final report will be due 30 calendar days after the end of the 18-month funding period that summarizes the impact of the project and progress towards broader dissemination of knowledge. A final report template will be sent to awardees one-month prior to the close of the award.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE AWARD

- Should the PI leave the Harvard Chan School, the remainder of the award will be forfeited (i.e., may not be transferred to another institution).
- Awarded projects will receive additional development support from ORSD.