



Office of Research

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Palmetto College & Comprehensive Institutions / Senior Campuses

Request for Proposals

Application Deadline: by 5pm December 16, 2025

Award Announcement anticipated: By end of February

Program Purpose:

RISE funding is provided by the Office of the Vice President for Research to support Palmetto College and Senior Campus faculty in enhancing their research, creative, and scholarly activities and to provide an opportunity to explore new areas of research and scholarship.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include full-time faculty from all disciplines at USC Aiken, Beaufort, Upstate, and Palmetto College Campuses.

- Faculty with an active ASPIRE or ASPIRE AI grant are not eligible.
- Faculty funded previously by ASPIRE, RISE, or other internal VPR grant for faculty (not Magellan awards) must justify how this application is different, ensuring there is no project overlap. *Please see the Application Procedure below for guidance.*
- Faculty may resubmit a revised proposal that was not funded in a previous funding cycle.
- Faculty previously awarded funds from the Office of the Vice President for Research (any faculty program: ASPIRE/AI, RISE, Excel, etc.) must be up-to-date with submitting reports as per the award terms and conditions.

Funds Available and Project Period:

- Projects may be funded up to \$6,000. Please note: Senior Campus Chancellors provide matching funds for their campus awardees. For example, if the budget request is \$6000, the Office of the VPR provides \$3000 and \$3000 is provided by the Senior Campus Chancellors.
- The project period begins May 16, 2026 and ends December 31, 2026.
- If requesting summer salary, it can only be requested for a time period in the summer when the faculty member is not teaching. Funds will be forfeited if the faculty member agrees to teach during the time requested for summer salary support from the RISE program.
- *VPR internal grants are permitted one account only. Subawards are not permitted.*

Budget Information: Budgets are to be presented in general categories and require detailed explanation (see application process below). While it is the intention to fund projects as closely as possible to the requested amount, the Office of the Vice President for Research reserves the right to alter the amount depending on the number of proposals received and funds available.

Allowable Costs

- Summer salary and fringe benefits for the PI (faculty salary support for summer compensation must comply with university policy; 9-month contracts only). Please note that if requesting summer salary, the salary may only be requested for time when the faculty member is not teaching.
- Project supplies and costs including software, participant incentives, sample testing, etc. (*provide details in budget justification*)
- Travel required to conduct the project and/or for dissemination at professional meetings. Both are permitted in the same application. *Justification is required for all travel requests.*
- Support for student assistants

Unallowable Costs

- Food (*except for PI travel related per diem*)
- Costs in connection with student or faculty degree requirements
- Salary is not permitted for faculty with 12-month contracts

Application Procedure and Proposal Preparation: Please use 11-point standard font (aptos, calibri, arial, times, etc.), single spaced, single column format, with 0.5-inch margins, in all directions, all sections. Pages must print to 8.5"x11". Assemble the following into a single PDF file:

1. Cover page
 - a. Descriptive title of project
 - b. Name, title, department, campus, and email of the principal investigator
 - c. Total budget requested
 - d. Brief summary of the proposed work
2. Proposal Narrative*: Maximum of 3 pages; To include
 - a. A brief discussion of the background and significance of the proposed idea, including its relation to the present state of knowledge in the field.
 - b. A detailed narrative of the project that includes the project purpose, objectives or goals; the project tasks, methods, or approach; and expected accomplishments or outcome of the project.
 - c. A discussion of external scholarship that will result from RISE funding, such as publications, book chapters, presentations, or grant submissions. *RISE grants are intended to fund projects that will reach an audience external to the USC system.*
 - d. Timeline with anticipated milestones and/or deliverables during the grant period.
 - e. If funded previously by ASPIRE, RISE, or other internal VPR grant for faculty (not Magellan awards), please provide a brief explanation of how this application is different.

**As per the review rubric, the narrative must be written in language clearly comprehensible to academic scholars outside the applicant's field of study.*
3. Bibliography (format as appropriate by discipline; no page limit)
4. CV/resume* of the PI (max 2 pages) that includes:
 - Education
 - Professional experience
 - Evidence of scholarship (most significant refereed journal articles, books, book chapters, etc.)
 - Significant accomplishments and contributions
 - Other information as appropriate

**Please do not format as a narrative biographical statement.*
5. Current and pending support form (*lead PI only*) Include current, pending, submitted, and to-be-submitted grant funding and requests for funding (internal and external support) using the form provided on program website.
 - Form is required even if you have no other support; mark "no other grant support"
 - Include all submissions where you are listed as either PI or co-PI/co-I

- Include all projects receiving or requesting internal or external grant or award support, not just those related to the proposed project
 - Include current and pending grant funding as well as submitted and planned submissions in near future for any project
6. Budget form and justification It is *required* to use the budget form provided on the RISE Program web site and include a budget justification for total project costs consistent with the list of allowable costs shown above. The budget justification may be provided on an additional page after the budget form or included on the form itself.
 7. Appendices are allowed if highly relevant (e.g., letters from outside collaborators confirming role, access to resources not available at USC, etc.); however, do not use appendices to circumvent page limits. *Recommendation letters are not permitted.*
 8. Previous VPR Funding Statement (lead PI only) If you received funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research as lead PI in the past 5 years (not including SPARC or Magellan awards) include a brief appendix that includes the titles, project dates, funding amounts, and description of the impacts for each award.

Submission: Combine all the above documents into a single PDF and submit in USCeRA by 5:00pm on deadline above.

- This USCeRA submission guide may help with the process.
- **To ensure proper routing in USCeRA**, on the second page of the “create a proposal” process titled Source of Project and Sponsor select the following options (*failure to do so will result in your proposal NOT being submitted*):
 - ⇒ Is this an internal Request? Select “Yes”
 - Internal Request Office: Select Vice President for Research
 - Select one of the following Internal Request Types:
 - For Aiken, Beaufort, Upstate: Select RISE Senior Campuses
 - For Palmetto College Campuses: Select RISE Regional Campuses
- The Internal Commit Form is used to enter the total amount you are requesting from the VPR in the Year 1 box. *Do not enter an amount in the Start-Up box.*
- Upload your proposal into USCeRA as a single PDF under the “Proposal/Proposal Summary” or “Other” category. *Do not separate or upload the budget or any other proposal sections or forms as separate documents.*
- Proposals must be submitted in USCeRA by the 5pm deadline but approval by administration/chairs/deans can be pending at that time. *Signatory approval is not required by 5pm.*

Review Process and Criteria: Applications that are complete, responsive, and submitted by the deadline will be evaluated by a peer review panel. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the review rubric (posted on program webpage) and final funding decisions will be made by the Vice President for Research.

Post Award Requirements:

Faculty must submit a final report through the on-line report form to the Office of the Vice President of Research 30 days after the project end date as outlined in the project award terms and conditions. *The report form link can be accessed from the program website.*

For questions, please contact:

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