

Center for Engineering in Vision and Ophthalmology Spring 2024 Seed Funding Call for Proposals

In celebration of the Center for Engineering in Vision and Ophthalmology's founding, seed funds are available for innovative collaborative research in Spring 2024. Key aspects of the proposed funding mechanism are as follows:

Eligibility and Allowable Costs

- Each faculty member may serve as lead PI for only one proposal, and all associated PIs must be Northwestern faculty members.
- There must be two PIs, one from McCormick and one from Feinberg
- Funding is available in any area of research related to vision and ophthalmology, but priority will be given to:
 - Proposals that request support for postdoctoral fellows or graduate students;
 - Projects that are too risky for federal funding;
 - Projects that fit less comfortably into established funding mechanisms (and consequently are viewed skeptically by reviewers);
 - Projects for which preliminary data is necessary before applying for federal funding;
 - Projects for which innovative collaborations are necessary and thus are unlikely to be eligible for federal funding mechanisms;
 - Projects that represent new collaborations between investigators;
- Award amounts for this program will typically be \$50,000 per project.
 - Funds will typically be used for graduate student or postdoc support, materials, supplies, user fees, lab services, and capital equipment;
 - Funds must be completely expended within 18 months of funding notification; no-cost extensions will not be allowed;
 - Award funds may not be used for faculty salary, travel (except for data collection or project implementation), conferences, entertainment of visitors, alcohol, teaching activities or outreach activities (symposia, academic visitors, etc.).
 - Indirect costs are not applicable.
- Direct questions regarding eligibility, research topics, or funding guidelines to Hao Zhang (hfzhang@northwestern.edu).

Submission Instructions

- The proposal should include the following items only:
 - Cover sheet with budget (see below);
 - 2-page research plan (see below);
 - One page for references cited in the research plan (optional)
 - NIH style biosketch (old or new version) for each of the faculty investigators.
- The cover sheet should include the following items:
 - The names, academic rank, and departments of the investigators;
 - The proposal title;
 - A one-paragraph, non-technical executive summary of the research goals (the summaries from all proposals submitted will be shared with the donor);
 - Budget: List trainees that will be supported by this award and for how long, their salaries, other budget requests, and the total funding being requested.
- The 2-page research plan should include the following items:
 - Scientific Question: What scientific question does this proposal address? Why is it important? What will be learned through the proposed research? Why is the project too risky and/or not well suited for established funding mechanisms?
 - Research Plan: Provide a compelling and well justified research plan that can be completed within 18 months.
 - Research Team: Summarize the expertise that each team member brings to the project. Also, briefly discuss whether/how this represents a new collaboration, an expanded collaboration, and/or a new research direction for an existing collaboration.
 - Measures of Success: Discuss the ways in which this proposal will (i) affect future research directions for the PIs, (ii) increase the likelihood of obtaining external funding (identify at least one funding agency), and/or (iii) increase Northwestern's external visibility in engineering in vision and ophthalmology.
 - Figures.
- One page may be used to list references cited in the research plan (optional)
- Submit the application materials using the Competitions platform:
<https://competitions.fsm.northwestern.edu/grants/cevo> under Center for Engineering in Vision and Ophthalmology Research Support.
- The deadline for proposal submission is May 30, 2024 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Review and Post-Award Requirements

- Each proposal will be reviewed by the Center for Engineering in Vision and Ophthalmology's co-Directors.
- We expect to make award decisions by June 6, 2024.
- Deliverables are expected to include:
 - A one-paragraph, non-technical executive summary of the research accomplishments;
 - A research presentation at the CEVO launch symposium on June 14, 2024
 - A short (1-2 page) final report at the end of the grant describing the research results including a list of resulting submitted/accepted publications and proposals