

**Costello College of Business
Grant Proposal Seed Funding Pool
Application Process
Revised – August, 2026**

Purpose and Eligibility

This seed funding program for the Costello College of Business faculty is designed to support efforts related to the preparation of a grant proposal involving extramural funding for research. The seed funding proposal should promote data collection or the development of additional capabilities which will lead to acquisition of future extramural research funding and would serve to enhance future research productivity. Specifically, eligible recipients receiving an award are expected to show progress toward an externally funded submission within the fiscal year in which funds are received.

Grant Proposal Seed Funding Details

Awards are made on a case-by-case basis and typically are limited to an initial request for **funds up to \$5000**. Subject to progress made, future awards of this amount may be forthcoming upon request. This funding can be used to support research activities as allowed by the state, such as travel, data, student researchers, etc.

Application Submission Process and Deadline

All application materials for the grant proposal seed funding program should be submitted as **one PDF** to the Mira Sharma (msharma9@gmu.edu), with a copy to the Assistant Dean for Research (Kevin Rockmann – krockma2@gmu.edu) with the email subject line “Seed Funding Application.” *The application for seed funding should be made in relation to the submission deadlines set by the potential funding source, usually 6 months or more in advance of sponsor due date.*

Rolling Submissions

Application materials can be submitted any time during the academic year.

Review Criteria

- A. How the seed grant work and the grant proposal work fits with the program of research of the faculty member(s) involved, including how it will lead to peer reviewed publications;
- B. How this work supports the Costello College of Business Research Excellence Principles, including how the work is intended to have business and/or societal impact;
- C. Experience and training in academic research and research methods;
- D. Prior scholarly accomplishments including a strong track record of research publications;
- E. How the proposed research would fit with the potential sponsor’s mission or program objectives;
- F. Strength of plan for potential collaborations (this could include other Costello faculty, Mason faculty more generally or business partners);
- G. Evidence of seeking or of receiving extramural funding in the past.

Application Materials

Please provide one **pdf** with the following:

- A. Academic/Scientific Merit (max 1 single-spaced page)
 - a. Provide a brief background of the research and research question(s)
 - b. Describe how the proposed work builds on your expertise and fits into your research program
 - c. Address how your research question(s) will advance knowledge in business related disciplines
 - d. State how the project may have the potential to have an impact on policy, practice or civil society
- B. Other material (max 1 single-spaced page)
 - a. Potential collaborators
 - b. Amount of funds being requested and how funds would be used
 - c. Plan for the submission of an application for external funding including what is the target agency / organization / program
- C. Current CV

Selection

The Dean will award Grant Proposal Seed Funding, using recommendations of the Assistant Dean of Research.

Period of the Award

Funds should be used within the fiscal year in which the award is made. Funds not expended will be forfeited.

Eligibility

All full-time faculty members on 9- or 12-month contracts are eligible, contingent on continued employment.