

# Ohio University Research Council (OURC) Discretionary Fund

Academic Year 2020-2021

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Open, until funds are exhausted for the year**

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Ohio University is committed to research, scholarship, and creative works and activities. Through the OURC Discretionary Fund, the University funds awards to faculty and staff ***for unique opportunities and emergencies***. OURC Discretionary funds are very limited, approximately \$2,000 per year; therefore, it is imperative that, when possible, funding should be sought through the competitive awards programs, including the OURC, Baker Fund, and 1804 Fund.

***This fund is for projects that are unique opportunities or emergencies. It is imperative that the applicant address this criterion in the proposal.***

## ELIGIBILITY

Faculty and administrative staff on all Ohio University campuses are eligible to submit proposals in any field of study. OURC discretionary awards are primarily for tenure track faculty and benefits-eligible, permanent administrative staff. Grants to non-tenure track faculty will be considered in exceptional cases. Contact Carma West for approval prior to submission of the proposal. Students interested in applying for funding should consult <http://www.ohio.edu/research/funding> for information on student programs.

***Only those projects that are unique opportunities or emergencies qualify for funding.*** The concept of uniqueness should be contextualized to the novelty of the project itself relative to the applicant's field. It is incumbent upon the applicant to present an argument that funding is needed immediately for a project that cannot be delayed, and therefore funding cannot be pursued through the competitive awards processes. Due to the limited funds available, an individual may only receive funding once every two years.

Requests for project support during a faculty fellowship leave are allowed.

**The following types of projects are not eligible for OURC discretionary funding:** Those related primarily to teaching, personal or professional development, administrative functioning, the advanced degree program of the applicant, curriculum development, instructional equipment purchases, or furthering an administrative function of a department, college, or other University unit.

Funding is to support in-process research and creative activities. **Travel support for attendance at conferences, short courses, and symposia or final project dissemination is not allowed.**

## REVIEW AND EVALUATION/SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by representatives from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity and in consultation with the Ohio University Research Council Chair.

## **PROPOSAL PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

Prepare a brief summary of the project. The proposal must include:

- a brief description of the project, including the scope and projected outcomes;
- a rationale about how the project presents a unique opportunity for the applicant or is an emergency ; and
- a proposed budget, with budget breakdown and justification (see below for additional guidance on the budget).

**NOTE:** For FY21, in light of the COVID19 pandemic, it is imperative that applicants ensure that all projects are designed such that (1) the project methodology complies with all current restrictions and (2) that the project can feasibly be concluded within a year. Applicants with concerns should contact Carma West, [westc@ohio.edu](mailto:westc@ohio.edu), prior to submission.

## **BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION**

OURC Discretionary awards are limited to \$500, and applicants are required to secure 1:1 matching funds from the department/school and/or College and/or Center/Institute prior to proposal submission.

This section should include the budget breakdown by line items, total budget request amount, sources of matching funds (if applicable), and budget justification. Funds may be requested for student wages, equipment, supplies, travel, and other bona-fide project expenses. **Travel support for attendance at conferences, short courses, and symposia is not allowed.**

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Email the proposal to Carma West, [westc@ohio.edu](mailto:westc@ohio.edu).