

**TO:** South Dakota Institutions of Higher Education  
**FROM:** Board Office  
**SUBJECT:** Research & Development Collaboration Grant (FY23)  
**DATE:** May 16, 2022

The South Dakota Board of Regents will once again sponsor the Research & Development Collaboration Grant as one of the ongoing initiatives designed to strengthen South Dakota's research infrastructure. This grant is made possible through a base funding allocation from the Legislature during the 2013 session, with the goal of providing institutions with long-term capacity building resources (i.e., the creation of clusters of research expertise/capability) that will greatly enhance competitiveness for significant extramural funding at the conclusion of the three-year award period (contingent on continued state general funding). Additionally, the program seeks to focus research and development activity around five key industry sectors that are projected to produce the highest potential for economic development in the state. More specifically, the South Dakota Science and Innovation Strategic Plan, which guides state research initiatives, emphasizes making strategic investments in research and development activities that can best stimulate economic development in the five industry sectors. Five research and development areas are identified in the RFP document and the Board of Regents supports the targeting of this valuable state investment in these key areas.

Through this FY23 Request for Proposals (RFP), the South Dakota Board of Regents solicits multi-institutional proposals for infrastructure investments in either research faculty or significant upgrades in both equipment and facilities proposals for research and development activities. Proposals from individual researchers will not be considered, but each institution may submit a single proposal, representing collaboration between at least one other Regental institution, for funding which may not exceed \$900,000, distributed over a three-year period. Please note these must be submitted as part of a single campus-wide proposal package. The RFP will be available on-line May 16, 2022, at: <http://www.sdbor.edu/services/research/RFPs.htm>.

**Important Dates:**

- **Proposal Due Date: August 12, 2022**
- **Initial Review and Questions from Reviewer(s): September 7, 2022**
- **Campus Responses Due: October 7, 2022**
- **Anticipated Announcement of Awards: Late October, 2022**
- **Grant Period: December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2025**

All communications regarding this program should be sent to:  
Mel Ustad  
Mel.Ustad@sdbor.edu  
605-670-1678

## **FY23 Research & Development Collaboration Grants Request for Research Proposals**

The South Dakota Board of Regents (SDBOR) hereby solicits proposals from the six campuses in the Regental system to leverage existing investments by focusing research and development activity around five key industry sectors<sup>1</sup> that are projected to produce the highest potential for economic development in the state. Proposals from individual researchers will not be considered, but must be submitted as part of a single campus-wide proposal package. A total of \$300,000 is available in FY23, with each campus eligible to submit a single proposal in collaboration with another Regental institution for funding that will not exceed \$900,000 over a three-year period (FY23, FY24, and FY25). To accommodate the need for planning or ramping up activities, campuses may submit a budget of less than \$300,000 in year one, and larger budgets in year two and three of the grant period. As an example, a campus may request \$150,000 in year one, \$400,000 in year two and \$350,000 in year three. However, in no event may a campus request more than: \$300,000 in year one; \$600,000 in years one and two combined; or \$900,000 for the three-year grant period.

The *R&D Collaboration Grant* program is designed to provide funding for significant infrastructure investments that will aid to foster institutional collaborations in the five key research and development areas that include: 1) Advanced Manufacturing & Materials; 2) Energy and Environment; 3) Human Health and Nutrition (including Medical Technology); 4) Information Technology/Cyber Security/Information Assurance; and 5) Value Added Agriculture and Agribusiness. The goal of the collaboration grant program is to provide institutions with long-term capacity building resources (i.e., the creation of clusters of research expertise/capability) that will greatly enhance competitiveness for significant extramural funding at the conclusion of the three-year award period (contingent on continued state general funding). Requests made to this pool of funds must represent multi-institutional infrastructure investments in either research faculty or significant upgrades in both equipment and facilities. Allowable expenditures may include one or a combination of any of the following activities including:

1. Formation of collaborative research activities or programs that seek to advance one or more of the seven R&D areas;

---

<sup>1</sup> [The South Dakota Science and Innovation Strategic Plan](#) draws upon numerous federal data sources, projections were developed to identify industry sectors with the highest potential growth rates through 2030. From this analysis five key industry clusters were identified that are expected to produce the highest potential economic development for South Dakota over the next eight years. These five industry sectors include:

- *Value Added Agriculture and Agribusiness:* Crop production and/or farm management with significant ties to each of the four other industry sectors.
- *Energy and Environment:* Renewable (solar, wind power, geothermal, biofuels) and non-renewable energy production (coal, and future oil and gas production).
- *Materials and Advanced Manufacturing:* Advanced material development in the area of healthcare and firearms, as well as manufacturing to leverage expansion in renewable and non-renewable energy.
- *Human Health and Nutrition:* Bioscience and biotech firms and the health care industry extending ties into pharmaceutical and medical device/instrument manufacturing.
- *Information Technology/Cyber-Security/Information Assurance:* Security needs of the banking industry and protection of electronic medical records within human health.

2. Interdisciplinary partnerships that attempt to form connections across multiple R&D areas;
3. Funding for research faculty positions and/or start-up packages for those engaged in R&D areas that become sustainable by the institutions at the end of the award cycle;
4. Required matching dollars to support the creation of endowed senior professorships or faculty research positions in designated R&D areas.

Initial campus level proposals should be evaluated based on merit criteria established at the institutional level to ensure that projects align with institutional research and development initiatives. Proposals will be reviewed by a technical review panel with expertise in the field. The technical review panel will make recommendations to the Board Office. One or more than one award may be made depending on the size of the approved budgets. If funds remain unallocated following this first-round solicitation, a second solicitation will be issued.

## **Reporting**

All proposals should include a section addressing the metrics that will be used in assessing success of the research efforts for each year of the collaboration. An annual report shall be submitted to the Board of Regents that documents outcomes identified in the proposed evaluation plan, along with an accounting of expenditures related to the award. A system review committee will evaluate the status of the collaboration at the end of each fiscal year and make a decision related to future funding allocation, assuming continued financial support from the Legislature. In the event of unsatisfactory progress, funding may be reduced or terminated in subsequent years of the grant period.

## **Submission of Proposals**

Proposals must be submitted electronically by the institutions sponsored program office in PDF format to Marcy Olson at Marcy.Olson@sdbor.edu by 5:00 PM (CDT), August 12, 2022.<sup>2</sup> Materials must be single spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins. Proposals must include a signature page with the signature of the institution's vice president for research or equivalent. All proposals must contain:

- 1. Executive Summary (1 page)<sup>3</sup>**
- 2. Research & Development Project (10 pages)**
- 3. A Proposed Evaluation Plan and Alignment to Research & Development areas (2 pages)**
- 4. A Detailed Budget & Budget Narrative for Each Institution (3 pages allowable for each institution)**

---

<sup>2</sup> All proposals will be initially reviewed for compliance. Incomplete proposals, or proposals that do not follow the guidelines as specified will be returned for correction and must be returned within 24 hours for full consideration. Failure to meet established requirements after this timeframe will not be considered.

<sup>3</sup> All page lengths listed are for maximum page limits.