



## **NEXUS DESTINATION GRANTS**

**Fall 2022**

The purposes of this fund are to support research conducted by faculty affiliates of the Interdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science (NEXUS) to promote interdisciplinary research collaboration among NEXUS members. Specifically, this fund is to facilitate the submission of an external grant application that is already close to the destination, which we define as a grant submission or resubmission.

**FINISH LINE FUNDS** are intended to support efforts that are already underway and need additional support to get across the “finish line” of a grant submission. A NEXUS affiliated faculty member must serve as principal investigator. The proposal may request funds for equipment, supplies, research-related travel (for field work or data collection), hourly wages for research assistants, and miscellaneous other uses as approved by the Executive Committee. Maximum funding is \$10,000, with an additional \$5,000 to be available if the team submits an external proposal within the time frame of submission by December 2023. The initial \$10,000 amount cannot be used to cover faculty release time, nor can funds be used to attend conferences for presentation or dissemination of findings. The additional \$5,000 can be used for faculty compensation or other needs but needs to be decided on as a team.

If NEXUS members have funding requests that are outside of the scope of this program, they are encouraged to contact the Executive Committee to discuss their ideas. Other types of funding requests may be considered, if the proposed projects further the development of NEXUS goals.

### **TO APPLY**

Proposals are due by **5 pm MDT on November 1 2022**. Funding decisions will be made by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Project period will be December 1 2022 to December 31 2023.

Prepare a 1-2 page statement describing the project. It should be single spaced with minimum font size of 11-point and 1 “ margins. Lengthier applications will not be reviewed; appendices will not be reviewed. The statement should include: a project title, a succinct project description including specific aims, methods, a specific timeline for start and finish, and budget with justification. The statement must outline the specific grant announcement that is targeted by the project. Please indicate whether other funds and resources are available to support the project, and if so, the approximate dollar amount(s) and source(s). The statement must detail how the project is underway and that the funds would be used as the extra final investment in getting a proposal submitted. Concrete examples that could be described in the statement could include: a scored submitted proposal with actionable revisions suggested from the prior review process; evidence of a favorable response to

a letter of intent; demonstration of pilot data; published manuscript or pre-print that could be a basis for a submission.

Proposals will need to be submitted by December 2023. Priority is given to NIH and NSF funding mechanisms.

Teams will need to be interdisciplinary. This will be shown by teams composed of researchers from different colleges across the U campus. We will also additionally value teams composed of researchers from different career stages.

Successful teams will present their work/project plans at a Dialogue for Disparities seminar. We envision this to happen in Spring semester 2023 or Fall semester 2023. Teams are encouraged to seek out time sensitive mechanisms. As an example, One NIH institute that could be targeted is NIEHS:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-19-011.html>.

A request letter may be submitted before IRB approval is obtained, but documentation of final IRB approval or exemption is required before funds will be disbursed. Only current NEXUS faculty affiliates are eligible to apply for these funds. Membership applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed at least monthly. For membership instructions: <https://nexus.utah.edu/membership/index.php>. The PI must also be a faculty at the University of Utah. Teams, however, may include collaborators at other institutions and from the community who are not NEXUS members.

## **APPLICATION REVIEW**

Proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by the NEXUS Steering Committee, currently including Drs. Lori Kowaleski-Jones, Daniel Mendoza & Rebecca Utz. Proposals will be funded in order of priority and within the availability of funds. The Steering Committee reserves the right to not fund proposals that do not meet a minimum standard of quality, even if funds are available. Committee members do not review proposals for which they are the PI or Co-Investigator.

Funding preference will be given to projects that have clear relevance to the scholarly and creative mission of NEXUS, have the potential to be successful in gaining extramural funding, and that involve interdisciplinary collaboration among NEXUS affiliated members. The following specific criteria are used in ranking/rating proposals. These are not necessarily in order of priority. Fulfillment of all criteria is not required for any given proposal, but fulfillment of multiple criteria will improve a proposal's priority score.

- Quality of design and methods
- Feasibility
- Availability of other resources (such as matched funds) to help complete the project
- Involvement of multiple NEXUS faculty (new collaborations are especially encouraged)
- Multidisciplinary project with a focus on convergence approaches
- Involvement of "new" researchers
- Contribution to the career trajectory of the PI, especially in regards to external research funding.

If a proposal is not funded, brief written feedback from the NEXUS Steering Committee will be given to the applicant, who has the option to apply again in a future funding cycle. All presentations, publications, and grant submission resulting from the award should formally recognize NEXUS. This includes presentations, posters, or

manuscripts. For example: “This study was supported (in part) by the Interdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science at the University of Utah.”

At the completion of the project, the PI is required to submit a final report to the NEXUS Steering Committee describing the progress and outcome of the project, including the accomplishment of the specific outcome(s) designated in the request letter, or in extenuating circumstances, an alternative timeline or outcome. Please note specifically the submission of relevant manuscripts or grant applications. Final reports should be brief (less than one single-spaced page) and submitted electronically.

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To submit applications, final reports, or for general inquiries:

Lori Kowaleski-Jones

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Note: Future submission dates will be announced later, pending availability of funds after this initial cycle.