Round 9 RFP Issue Date: November 15, 2022

Program Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent Due</td>
<td>January 15, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record of Invention Due</td>
<td>February 15, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals Due</td>
<td>May 15, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announced</td>
<td>June 1, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>December 1, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project End Date</td>
<td>December 15, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Report Due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Overview

To measurably improve lives through access to UCI-developed knowledge, UCI Beall Applied Innovation’s Proof of Product (PoP) Grants program identifies Principal Investigators (PIs) with early-stage research projects having significant potential for being brought to market as a product or service; that is, for commercialization and provides them up to $100,000 towards this goal. A single round of PoP Grant funding is expected to result in appreciable product development results that will potentially attract other sources of translational grant funding and/or partnerships with industry or investors.

Proposals must focus on developing UCI inventions or software that have a UC case number on file by January 15, 2023, and are available for licensing. Suitable proposals will clearly state expected outcomes that address a barrier to commercialization. Examples include but are not limited to algorithm development based on relevant datasets, building a working prototype, demonstrating efficacy or operating performance, integrating with another technology, developing a formulation for a therapeutic candidate, or determining the toxicity profile of a drug candidate.

The final decision on funding of a given proposal will be made by UCI Beall Applied Innovation (BAI) with input from external Reviewers with domain expertise.

Guiding Principles

PoP Grants are intended to trigger and focus the entrepreneurial spirit among campus innovators and strengthen collaboration with BAI. BAI’s staff will actively engage with Applicants throughout the proposal process, and all Applicants will receive feedback from Reviewers for future funding opportunities. Over time, dialogue between Researchers and industry strengthens the culture of interdependent, collaborative innovation at UCI as well as across the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem.

PoP Grants are not limited to specific disciplines or departments. BAI’s goal is to cast a wide net among UCI schools, centers and labs, and to encourage cross-collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches. PoP Grants offer the potential to prompt and capture entrepreneurship in both STEM and non-STEM fields.

Eligibility

All UCI Faculty members who are eligible to serve as PIs may apply. Single Investigator or multi-Investigator teams are also welcomed to apply, and interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged. Intellectual property must be available for licensing (not obligated under a letter agreement, option, or license agreement). Personnel, resources and, if applicable, research compliance approvals (e.g. IRB) proposed to accomplish the specific aims of the proposal should already be in place.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

The LOI template and instruction may be found [here](#).
Proposal
The Proposal Template and instructions may be found [here](#).

Review Process
Proposals will be scored by external Reviewers with domain expertise. These Reviewers will consider the technical merit and commercial relevance of the proposed activity relative to the funds requested. Demonstration of previously secured matching funds, commitment of matching funds, the likelihood of a commercialization event, funding investment or partnership will be taken into consideration during the review process, as will proposals that address UCI’s priorities of Health, Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability. These Reviewers sign confidentiality agreements for maximum flexibility during the review process. Final funding decisions are made by BAI staff with input from these Reviewers.

Deliverables, Use of Funds, and Oversight
An initial project overview meeting with a UCI BAI team member will occur at the start of the program period for each awardee. Research Teams must participate in and complete BAI’s I-Corps program during the project’s 6-month period-of-performance. I-Corps is a National Science Foundation-sponsored program to train researchers in ‘customer discovery’, that is, to match the value of their invention to the needs of specific target customers by actively engaging with those customers. Until this match is accomplished, further efforts to commercialize the invention is discouraged. BAI’s I-Corps program is offered monthly and is accomplished over one (1) week through three (3) evening workshops plus time outside the workshops interviewing customers. Teams completing BAI’s I-Corps program are eligible for NSF’s National I-Corps program where teams receive $50,000 to support commercialization. The Licensing Officer of record for the case will meet periodically with the Research Team to monitor progress. Each PI will submit by December 15, 2023 a project report describing progress against proposed goals and a budget report. As circumstances permit, PIs may be asked to present their projects at showcase events.

Questions
Frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

All other questions related to this RFP should be emailed to popgrants@uci.edu.