Call for ESDRI Seed Grant proposals for 2022

Proposal due date: April 22, 2022
Decisions expected by: May 23, 2022

Program Goals: The ESDRI Seed Grant program is meant to facilitate multidisciplinary research projects that lead to extramural funding and the development of innovative products. Project proposals are welcome from all disciplines that relate to one or more of the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute areas of focus.

- Water resources, hydrology, and biogeochemistry
- Planning, urban design, landscape design, built ecologies, and settlement patterns
- Architecture, product design, fashion, and the environment
- The environment, human health, and well-being
- Socioeconomic systems and the environment
- Ecology and the evolution of biological diversity
- Biodesign

Special consideration will be given to multidisciplinary projects that engage in both design and scientific modes of inquiry.

Proposals must be clearly related to one or more environmental issues to receive ESDRI funding, but all types of disciplines are welcome to apply (scientific, design, engineering, artistic, humanities, etc.). If there are questions about the scope of proposals funded by ESDRI, PIs are encouraged to discuss potential topics with ESDRI co-directors.

Project Products: In addition to proposals for extramural funding (government, foundation, or industry), projects should also result in other tangible outcomes that provide evidence of scholarly success, such as peer-reviewed publications or installations, academic reviews, or new internal or external collaborations (e.g., across colleges or with industry, government, non-profits, or museums).

Recipients of ESDRI Seed Grants must provide annual reports (1-2 pages) until a grant for extramural support is submitted and a decision is received. External proposal submission is expected before May 1, 2023.

Budget Details: Funds requested should be appropriate to the scope of the project, up to a maximum of $12,000.

Allowable costs include support for graduate and undergraduate research assistants, postdocs, and technicians; materials, supplies, and equipment; travel expenses for field work, research collaboration, conference attendance, symposia, or visits to funding agencies/sponsors; and faculty release time and summer salary.
Eligibility and Number of PIs: Full-time Kent State faculty members in ESDRI are eligible as PIs, including both Tenure-Track and NTT. Proposals will be considered from individual faculty members or groups of up to four PIs.

Duration: Funds must be expended by August 31, 2023.

Submission Mechanism and Deadline: Submit your proposal via email to esdri@kent.edu by April 22, 2022. Please follow format guidelines below.

Review Process: Proposals will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee.

Questions? Contact Chris Blackwood at cblackwo@kent.edu or Diane Davis-Sikora at dmdavis@kent.edu.

Proposal Format:

2. Project description and work plan (up to 4 pages): Describe the area of research, and proposed study goals and design.
3. Funding strategy (up to 3 pages): Describe plans to apply for external funding, including potential grant mechanisms and the anticipated monetary request of the extramural grant application. Also include previous funding obtained from relevant agencies or other groundwork laid with relevant agencies.
4. Timeline with expected proposal submission and other project products.
5. Description of anticipated outcomes.
6. References cited.
7. Short biography for all co-PIs. Use format of NSF, NIH, or another relevant agency.
8. Budget (up to $12,000) and budget justification.
9. If relevant, memo from chair/director approving use of departmental resources, beyond what is already assigned to PIs, or requested release time.
Evaluation sheet for ESDRI seed grant proposals, to be used by peer review panel.

Proposal PIs:

Total score:

**Background and motivation.** Is the scholarly context (i.e., literature review) described for the project detailed, current, and appropriate? Is it clear how this context helps motivate the project? Will the project advance the field?

Score (1 to 5):
Comments:

**Feasibility and budget.** Has enough detail been given to provide convincing evidence that the project can be successfully completed? Do the PIs possess the experience and access to resources to complete the project?

Score (1 to 5):
Comments:

**Funding potential.** Is there a detailed plan for obtaining future funding for the project? Does the project align with identified funding sources?

Score (1 to 5):
Comments:

**Aligned with ESDRI mission.** Is the project within the areas of research that is addressed by ESDRI? Is it interdisciplinary or involve new collaborations? Is there integration of science and design?

Score (1 to 5):
Comments: