



Big Ideas Initiative
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Nebraska.edu/big-ideas

Proposal Receipt Deadline

Faculty teams must submit fully completed proposals by Friday January 11, 2019, 5 p.m. Central Time via the grants-awards.nebraska.edu website.

Introduction:

The Big Idea Initiative engages faculty in identifying opportunities that, with additional funding, could help the University of Nebraska solidify its position as a great university. These transformational ideas will build upon the university's strengths and draw from all disciplines represented on its campuses. Faculty teams are invited to submit bold, interdisciplinary ideas that involve new levels of collaboration and likely will require an investment of \$25 million or more.

Multi-discipline, multi-college and/or multi-campus big ideas are of highest interest. Ideas should be future-focused and forward-thinking, with the intent to positively impact the world in ways that would engage the imagination and commitment of scholars and donors. The submitted proposals will be reviewed within a donor-interest framework, and could be considered for private fundraising opportunities in the years ahead.

Big Ideas Deadline: Faculty teams must submit completed applications by Friday January 11, 2019, 5 PM Central Time via the grants-awards.nebraska.edu website.

Big Ideas Proposal Format and Content:

The proposal format, at this early evaluative stage, is simple. A text-only online application form will be used, and the proposing team will be asked for the following information:

Online Proposal Form:

- Application Title
- Team Lead Contact Information
- List of Additional Team Members
- Abstract/Summary (*not to exceed 200 words*)
- Proposal Narrative, to include the following sections:
 1. **Describe the interdisciplinarity (two or more disciplines) and/or acute focus on areas where the University of Nebraska has unique capacity and talent to lead (*not to exceed 500 words*).**



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- How is the University of Nebraska uniquely positioned to create and nurture this project?
- Does a larger investment in this area position the University of Nebraska to be a regional, national or international leader?
- Who is doing this very well and how does this initiative differentiate itself?

2. Describe how the proposal incorporates four or more key characteristics of a great university developed through the University of Nebraska Visioning Day (not to exceed 500 words).

- Learner focused and experientially infused
- Relentless focus on student success
- Research relevance
- Diversity: promoted and encouraged
- Talent leveraged across the system
- Local and global relevance
- Purposefully and creatively changing the world

3. Describe a bold vision of what a program and/or units can be and achieve together (not to exceed 500 words).

- Builds upon existing programs to dramatically change an approach or create new levels of collaboration across two or more units, colleges and/or campuses.
- Provides transformative and meaningful change rather than any incremental improvements or growth that could be expected in existing programs.
- Clearly identifies what distinguishes this Big Idea from similar or past approaches.

4. Provide a statement of benefits to Nebraska and the world (not to exceed 500 words).

- Who will it impact?
- What are the intended outcomes (up to 5)?
- Why does this initiative matter?

5. Identify the scope and scale of the initiative and indicate the required significant private investment (not to exceed 500 words).

- Realistically, what resources will it take to make this project happen?
- What existing resources will be leveraged to make this happen? (Formal approvals for leverage or match of existing resources will be sought if the project moves forward.)

Review and Evaluation Process:

Proposals will be peer reviewed by NU faculty panels. The panel reviews will be shared with the President, the NU chancellors, the NU Chief Academic and Research Officers, and the University of Nebraska Foundation. Feedback will be shared with faculty at key points in the review process.



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Faculty members will be notified in late spring if their Big Ideas proposal is moving forward. The University of Nebraska Foundation, in partnership with the University of Nebraska, will determine how best to test external funding feasibility for these Big Ideas.

Some proposals will be better addressed at a campus or college level, and will be directed to the appropriate administrators for further priority and funding consideration, which could include philanthropic support and other external funding opportunities.

Big Ideas Initiative website: nebraska.edu/big-ideas

To submit a proposal: grants-awards.nebraska.edu



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