
Texas A&M University
Division of Research
TARGETED PROPOSAL TEAMS (TPT) FUNDING PROGRAM
2024-2025 Request for Proposals
Grants on the Edge: Winter RFP

Background and Purpose

As federal agencies and other sponsors continue to prioritize interdisciplinary research of national and global importance, the Targeted Proposal Teams (TPT) funding program was initiated in 2023 as an investment to foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research and enhance leveraging of extramural funding at Texas A&M University. The 2024-2025 TPT Request for Proposals (RFP) was first announced in August 2024, as the second year of the initiative. The 2024-2025 TPT program is designed to provide seed funding for innovative research and creative ideas in three categories: 1) Collaborative Seed Grants; 2) Proposal Planning Grants; and 3) Grants on the Edge. The RFP includes two calls for proposals (i.e., Fall 2024 and Spring 2025) for Collaborative Seed Grants and Proposal Planning Grants, and three calls for Grants on the Edge (Fall 2024, Winter 2024, and Spring 2025).

This call is specifically for the second round of Grants on the Edge. The next call for Collaborative Seed Grants and Proposal Planning Grants will be offered in Spring 2025.

Note: Proposals submitted and reviewed during the 2024-2025 Grants on the Edge competition cycle that are not selected for funding may not be resubmitted in future rounds unless they have been resubmitted to an extramural funding opportunity and received further feedback.

Grants on the Edge Round 2 Proposal Deadline: January 15, 2025, 5:00 PM CST

Eligibility and Requirements

- The TPT program is open to faculty members from Texas A&M University (including Galveston and other TAMU branch campuses) and its Texas A&M University System partner research state agencies (i.e., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas Engineering Experiment Station) who are eligible to act as principal investigators for external funding (i.e., tenured/tenure track faculty and APT faculty with research appointment).
- TPT is an investment to foster interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary research. Interdisciplinary research is defined in the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Report](#) as research that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or field of research practice. To apply to this program, at least two eligible faculty investigators (i.e., adloc-ed to TAMU, AgriLife Research, or TEES) from different disciplines must collaborate and

submit a proposal as a team. Proposals may include additional eligible faculty investigators. External investigators may be listed as collaborators, but funds may not be applied towards the expenses of external collaborators.

- An investigator may be named as Principal Investigator (PI) on only one proposal per TPT category (i.e., an investigator may serve as PI for one Collaborative Seed Grant, one Proposal Planning Grant, and one Grants on the Edge). Submission of multiple proposals in the same category by the same investigator as PI will result in the disqualification of the proposals. However, a PI for one proposal may serve as Co-PI on multiple proposals.
- Current awardees (PIs) of an active TPT grant are not eligible to submit a TPT proposal (as PI) this year.
- TPT funds cannot be used for equipment or travel to conventional academic meetings or conferences.
- Awards are subject to the availability of funds and budgetary approvals. Funding levels for successful proposals may vary depending on the Review Committee's assessment of budgetary need and proposal ranking.
- Proposals recommended for funding will be reviewed for research compliance requirements (including IRB, IACUC, IBC, and Export Control requirements, as appropriate). Funds will be released only after appropriate compliance requirements have been met.
- No-cost extensions are not permitted. Unspent grant funds will be returned to the TPT program.
- Awardees are expected to:
 - Engage with the VPR Office of Research Development Services (RDS) after notification of the award and submit sponsor feedback to this office.
 - Submit a final report to the TPT program within 60 days of the completion of the award, outlining the outputs, outcomes, and impact of the project. The final report should include specifics about the targeted submission, results of the research, new funding targets identified during the process, efforts underway to obtain external funding, and efforts to generate publications,
 - Submit a competitive proposal seeded by the TPT award to an external funding agency within 12 months of completion of the award.
 - Submit annual progress reports for two years following completion of the TPT award to document progress on the following metrics: publications, extramural grant funding, or new projects stemming from the award. Any abstracts or publications arising from the award must acknowledge TPT funding.

Grants on the Edge Purpose

The purpose of the TPT Grants on the Edge program is to provide funding to enhance the competitiveness of previously submitted extramural grant proposals. When a research or creative proposal is favorably reviewed by an extramural grant review panel or study section (by receiving a competitive rating) and are relatively close to the funding threshold but not selected for funding, the PI/team may request funding support from the Grants on the Edge program to enhance the proposal or generate research data in support of proposal resubmission. For NIH-based Grants on the Edge applications, the established paylines for the targeted institute/program will inform funding decisions. Proposals scoring closer to the established paylines for the targeted institute/program will be viewed more favorably than those scoring further away. For

proposals submitted to NIH institutes with no established paylines, funding decisions will be based on the comments and recommendations of the study section. For proposals submitted to other funding agencies or sponsors, funding decisions will be based on proposal rankings (relative to others in the application pool) and comments/recommendations of the extramural grant review panel. Grants on the Edge must include at least two eligible faculty members from different disciplines and the extramural proposal must be led and submitted (as the Prime Recipient) by Texas A&M University or one of its Texas A&M University System partner research state agencies (i.e., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas Engineering Experiment Station).

Funding, Size of Award, and Budget Guidelines

Grants on the Edge will provide up to \$25,000 (for targeted extramural proposal total cost budgets of \$2 million or less) and up to \$50,000 (for targeted extramural proposal total cost budgets of more than \$2 million) over 12 months, to support eligible PIs/teams who have had research proposals submitted and reviewed by external funding agencies since 2023 that were not funded but demonstrated merit. The program funding will provide support to address review panel comments, generate additional preliminary data, or conduct other activities aimed at improving the chances of success upon resubmission of the grant proposal. Allowable expenses are designed to be flexible to meet the needs of different proposals. Examples include:

- Personnel costs: Salary and benefits for Research Associates, Postdoc or Graduate Student to assist with additional data collection and proposal revision/refinement. Faculty salary support is not allowable with this grant.
- Research supplies or materials.
- Travel to meet with sponsor.
- Proposal development and review service (i.e., expert reviewer service).

Include a budget table and budget justification. Budget justification must clarify how funds will be used to enhance/improve the proposal for resubmission.

It is anticipated that about 8-10 Grants on the Edge awards will be made for this call, based on the quality of the proposals and recommendations of the Review Committee.

Proposal Requirements and Review Criteria:

Proposal must include the information outlined below. Font size of text should be no smaller than 11 points. Proposals that do not follow these guidelines will be returned without review.

Title of the Unfunded Extramural Submission: Provide a succinct title for the proposal.

Principal Investigator: Provide the name, affiliation, and contact information of the Principal Investigator (PI).

Co-Principal Investigators: Provide the name, affiliation, and contact information of each Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI). There is no limit to the number of Co-PIs.

Project Summary/Abstract of the Unfunded Extramural Submission.

Interdisciplinary Expertise of Proposal Team (Maximum of 500 words): Provide a brief statement of each Texas A&M PI/Co-PI's role and responsibilities on the proposed project, specific skills, and evidence of interdisciplinary complementary expertise.

Proposal Narrative (maximum of three pages): Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a. Merit of the Research Proposed in the Unfunded Extramural Submission. Please include a synthesis of the panel/study section summary, scores/rankings, and overall recommendations for the unfunded extramural submission. **Include an assessment of the competitiveness of the proposal relative to the funding threshold (or the program payline, for NIH proposals).** Highlight need for additional preliminary data or weaknesses that could be addressed with Grants on the Edge funding. Detailed feedback from review panel/study section should be submitted as an appendix. (25 points).

Note: Only proposals that received a competitive rating by the extramural grant review panel or study section and are relatively close to the funding threshold will be given favorable consideration.

- b. Merit of the Proposed Improvements. Proposals should include a description of the proposed improvements in response to the review panel/study section that will move the submission from Good to Great, how the requested budget will be used to improve the resubmission, and specific plans and timelines for resubmission of the proposal (i.e., agency/specific target funding program, target submission date, budget amount, etc.). Note that PI/team will be required to resubmit the proposal within 12 months of completion of the Grants on the Edge award. (25 points).

Budget: Include a budget table and budget justification (maximum of two pages).

Biosketch: Append a maximum two-page biosketch/CV for the PI and each Co-PI.

Appendix: Attach detailed feedback from the review panel/study section.

Proposal Submission:

Grants on the Edge proposals must be submitted by the PI via the [InfoReady](#) portal by January 15, 2025 by 5:00 PM CST