

## Strategic Priorities Plan Funds 2021-2022 Request for Applications

Virginia Commonwealth University is entering a new research paradigm. While we continue to grow as a preeminent research university, we are also transforming how we recognize and reward faculty, staff, and student contributions leading to public impact within our community and region, as well as nationally and internationally. To help facilitate these contributions, VCU, committed to improving the human condition and catalyzing societal impact through a culture of collaboration that facilitates discovery and creative practice, initiated the [One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan \(SRPP\)](#) in July 2021.

The SRPP aligns the strengths of VCU's faculty, staff, student and our greater community into four research themes, or initiatives, with accompanying goals and objectives under each, which recognize diversity, equity, and inclusion as imperatives to success:

- **Enriching the human experience:** apply creative expression, critical analysis and advancements in knowledge and technology to enhance individual quality of life and social infrastructure.
- **Establishing a just and equitable society:** commit to identifying injustices and finding solutions to the most difficult social problems to build a better world, recognizing that change begins with us.
- **Optimizing health:** use trans-, multi-, and interdisciplinary approaches at scales from molecules to populations in search of new ways to preserve and restore human health.
- **Supporting sustainable energy and environments:** create evidence-based solutions that contribute to a better future in a rapidly changing natural world.

With the approval of the VCU Board of Visitors, President Michael Rao authorized the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) to invest in Phase One of the SRPP implementation during FY 2021-2022. This three-pronged internal awards phase focuses on trans- and multidisciplinary, inclusive team approaches to develop strategies resulting in specific, measurable return-on-investment indicators via two new opportunities, the *VCU Accelerate Fund* (Accelerate) and the *VCU Breakthroughs Fund* (Breakthroughs) and an expanded *VCU Quest Fund* (Quest, formerly the Presidential Research Quest Fund). This 2021-2022 request for applications outlines the priorities, proposal requirements, deadlines, and application processes for each opportunity. [This request for applications is for the current funding round only.](#)

### Return on Investment Framework

The return-on-investment indicators framework includes, but is not necessarily limited to, contributions of faculty, staff, trainees and students responsive to the [One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan](#) with an approach that offers return on investment in accordance with some or all of the following priorities:

1. Expands external funding awards and research expenditures, developing VCU's national program rankings, including increased externally sponsored awards, growth of federally supported research activities, increased research expenditures, and full indirect cost recovery on external funding awards as applicable.
2. Expands the rate of growth of diverse, multidisciplinary research teams in all disciplines, including STEM, humanities, social sciences, and the arts (sponsored funding, impact, etc.).
3. Expands the number of URM faculty as part of team leadership on extramural grants submitted and awarded.
4. Expands the rate of growth and impact of VCU community-engaged research activities and measurements of public/societal impact that contributes to diverse and inclusive communities.
5. Publication in high impact or visibility journals
6. Advances community access to innovation through increases in patents, licensing, public-private partnerships, and start-ups leading/translated into community practice.

## Strategic Funds At-A-Glance (see full funding descriptions for further detail)

Fund Title	VCU Accelerate	VCU Breakthroughs	VCU Quest
<b>RFA Release</b>	Dec. 1, 2021	Dec. 1, 2021	Dec. 1, 2021
<b>Submission Deadline</b>	Full Proposal: Feb. 1, 2022	LOI: Jan. 21, 2022 Full Proposal: March 1, 2022	Full Proposal: April 1, 2022
<b>Award Start Date</b>	April 1, 2022	May 1, 2022	July 1, 2022
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	\$1 million	\$2.5 million	\$750,000 (total of \$1 million with cost share contribution from schools/colleges)
<b>Award Ceiling</b>	Up to \$100,000	Up to \$200,000	Up to \$50,000
<b>Unit level cost share</b>	NA	NA	25% of total costs
<b>Fund Release</b>	Initial: 50%; Remaining 50%: following successful 6-month progress report.	Initial: 50%; Remaining 50%: following successful 6-month progress report.	Initial: 60%; Remaining 40%: following successful 6-month progress report.
<b>Project Period</b>	12-18 months	18-24 months	18 months
<b>Anticipated # of Awards</b>	Up to 12	Up to 12	~20
<b>Program Category</b>	Small program expansion or mid-scale planning	Large-scale program	Pilot/small project, funds for part of a larger project
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Transdisciplinary research required.</p> <p>Multi-PI required. PIs may be from the same school/college.</p> <p>PIs may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school.</p> <p>Inclusive research teams are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students.</p> <p>Alignment with an initiative, including specific goal(s) and objective(s) identified in the SRPP.</p>	<p>Transdisciplinary research required.</p> <p>Multi-PI required. PIs must be from at least two different schools/colleges.</p> <p>PIs may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school.</p> <p>Inclusive research teams are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students.</p> <p>Alignment with an initiative, including specific goal(s) and objective(s) identified in the SRPP.</p>	<p>Trans/multidisciplinary research encouraged.</p> <p>Multi-PI encouraged but single investigators accepted.</p> <p>PIs may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school.</p> <p>Inclusive research teams are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students.</p> <p>Alignment with an initiative, including specific goal(s) and objective(s) identified in the SRPP.</p>

## VCU ACCELERATE FUND

**Purpose:** The VCU Accelerate Fund (Accelerate) supports high-profile, launch-ready initiatives designed to yield measurable results in research, scholarship, and creative practice. Funded projects should be designed to reach a very specific outcome or establish capability to submit a competitive application for external funding within a short term (e.g., 6–12-months after project completion). Examples of appropriate Accelerate projects include smaller contained projects with tangible outcomes, small project expansion or mid-scale planning proposals.

**Eligibility:** Transdisciplinary research, combining two or more areas of study into a seamless project, including at least two principal investigators (PIs), is required. PIs may be from the same school/college. PIs may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school. Inclusive research teams encompassing meaningful participation of all members, are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and graduate as well as undergraduate students. Projects must demonstrate alignment with a SRPP initiative, along with specific goal(s) and objective(s).

**Award Period:** Funding is up to \$100,000 project periods of 12-18 months. Project start: April 1, 2022.

**Full proposal deadline:** Application packages should be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities here: [Accelerate: OP00000428](#) **no later than 5pm (EST) on February 1, 2022**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt. **Applications will not be accepted after the deadline for any reason.**

**Format:** Applications should be single spaced, Arial, 11-point (minimum) font with half-inch margins on all sides. [Required forms can be downloaded here.](#) Proposals not following the format requirements will be returned without review. **Proposals must include the following components in order:**

1. **One- to two-paragraph project summary:** should be able to stand alone.
2. **Team Profile if applicable (1-2 pages):**
  - a. Full roster including name, affiliations (college/school/center/institute), and department organized by discipline.
  - b. Discuss the diversity of the proposed team, including how team composition and members specifically enhance the thorough investigation of the chosen grand challenge, and contribute to the design of project strategies, operations, evaluation, and dissemination (inclusive of PIs, Co-PIs, Co-Is, collaborators, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate/undergraduate students as applicable).
  - c. Brief multi-PI management plan.
3. **Project plan (3 pages):**
  - a. Significance.
  - b. Identify the SRPP initiative and the specific goal(s) and objective(s) the project advances.
  - c. Project description including research questions/methods.
  - d. List and describe the measurable project outcomes/outputs.
  - e. Describe how project outcomes/outputs will lead to specific external funding opportunities, community impact, intellectual property and/or other outcomes (e.g., student success, social and health equity). **This section is a leading criterion for award selection and should be sufficiently detailed to show a tangible return on investment within one year of project end date.**
4. **References cited (no page limit):** Use citation format appropriate for your field.
5. **Current or Prior Internal Funding (1 page):** Brief description of all current or prior internal university funding received by each PI(s) including:
  - a. The source of internal funding, project title and a short description of the project and outcomes, project dates and the amount of the award(s).

- b. A list of all external project(s) related to prior internal funding including the source of funding, project dates, title, and amount of award.
- 6. **Timeline (1 page):** Outline major project milestones and associated timeframes anticipated during the project period (between 12-18 months). Start date: April 1, 2022.
- 7. **Facilities and resources (no page limit).**
- 8. **Biographical Sketches:** NIH and NSF bio sketches accepted. If you do not have a current bio sketch, use this [bio sketch form](#).
- 9. **Budget & budget justification form:** Use this form to justify all requested costs associated with the proposed project. Accelerate funding cannot supplant existing support for the proposed project. Facilities and administrative (F&A; indirect) costs not allowed.

Eligible costs:

- a. Salary support for PI(s) and co-investigator(s) collectively cannot exceed 20% of total project costs. A detailed justification is required with approval via RAMS-SPOT by the department chair(s) and school(s)/college(s) for each PI.
- b. Salary support for research staff.
- c. Research supplies.
- d. Undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral stipends if relevant to the project with a detailed justification.
- e. Travel essential to the project.
- f. Other expenses (i.e., laboratory and shared core facilities/resource fees).
- g. Consultant costs.
- h. Equipment/technology critical to the project (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification).
- i. Participant fees.

Ineligible costs:

- a. Salary support for administrative personnel.
- b. Office equipment and supplies (including faculty computers/laptops/tablets unless strictly related to project).
- c. Travel not strictly related to the project.
- d. Tuition other than graduate student tuition.
- e. Professional organization dues or membership fees.
- f. Sub-contracts to institutions or salary support for individuals external to VCU.
- g. Pre-award costs.

- 10. **Current and pending support form:** Use the attached form to itemize all current and pending support associated with the proposed project.

**Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed and scored by a faculty panel including members from across the University. Reviews and scores will then be submitted to the SRPP Advisory Council (the Council). Recommendations from the Council will be forwarded to the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI) for final approval. Written reviews and scores will be sent to those applicants not awarded. Review criteria include:

- 1. Merit: 1) scholarly merit and impact, and 2) feasibility (budget and timeline).
- 2. Broader impacts: 1) translational potential, and 2) potential for high return on investment.
- 3. Relation to Strategic Research Priorities Plan: specific potential for a project to advance the goals and objectives identified.
- 4. Team: 1) PI(s) preparedness, 2) trans- and multi-disciplinary qualities, 3) diversity (meaningful participation of trainees, students, URM and early-stage investigators, as well as cross-campus collaboration).

**Award and Reporting Requirements:** The award period is 12-18 months beginning April 1, 2022. Fifty percent of award funding will be released at the start of the project period, with the remaining 50% contingent on submission of a six-month report documenting meaningful progress toward fulfillment of the project aims/goals. The Vice President for Research and Innovation and members of the SRPP Advisory Council will review progress in comparison to budget utilization and project milestones based on the initial project proposal. The remaining 50% of funds will be released following approval from the VPRI. A final project report including an accounting of all funds expended and progress on sustainability plans will be required 30 days after the initial project end date.

**Questions:** Please direct all questions to Melissa Throckmorton, director of research development and strategic projects ([throckmortms@vcu.edu](mailto:throckmortms@vcu.edu)).

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## VCU BREAKTHROUGHS FUND

**Purpose:** VCU Breakthroughs Fund (Breakthroughs) supports transdisciplinary teams to design unique, creative, and innovative large-scale approaches to confront humanity's grand challenges as identified in the One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan. Successful projects are designed to reach very specific outcomes or establish the capability to compete for external funding upon award completion.

**Eligibility:** Transdisciplinary research, including multiple principal investigators (PIs), is required. This is defined as research that combines two or more areas of study into a seamless project. PIs must be from at least two different VCU schools or colleges. PIs may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school. Inclusive research teams encompassing meaningful participation of all members, are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students (graduate and undergraduate). Projects must demonstrate alignment with a SRPP initiative, along with specific goal(s) and objective(s).

**Award Period:** Funding up to \$200,000 total with project periods from 18-24 months. Project start: May 1, 2022.

**Application Instructions:** Both the letter of intent and the written proposal will be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities. **Late submissions of either the letter of intent or full proposal will not be considered.**

**Letter of intent:** A non-binding letter of intent is required via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities **Breakthroughs LOI: OP00000429** no later than **5pm (EST) on January 21, 2022**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt. The primary purpose of the LOI is to assist in securing reviewers. The letter of intent should be 1 page, single spaced, Arial, 11-point font and half-inch margins on all sides and include:

1. Names and emails of all PIs, Co-PIs, Co-Is. Include names and emails of any collaborators if known.
2. A list of all project team affiliations including colleges, schools, centers, institutes, and departments.
3. Five to six keywords to assist with reviewer selection.
4. 1-2 paragraph description of the project.
5. Project period (can be between 18-24 months). Start date: **May 1, 2022**.
6. Estimated funding to be requested.
7. All names of current collaborators at VCU **not included** in the proposed project (these individuals will be excluded from the review of the submitted application).

**Full proposal:** Application packages must be submitted here **Breakthroughs Full Proposal: OP00000431** no later than **5pm (EST) on March 1, 2022**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt.

**Format:** Applications should be single spaced, Arial, 11-point (minimum) font with half-inch margins on all sides. [Required forms can be downloaded here](#). Proposals not following the format requirements will be returned without review. **Proposals must include the following components in order:**

1. **Project abstract or specific aims (1 page)**
2. **Team Profile (1-2 pages):** Successful teams will be led by no less than two PIs from different disciplines and schools/colleges. This section is a leading criterion for award selection and should be sufficiently detailed.
  - a. Full roster including name, affiliations (college/school/center/institute), and department, organized by discipline.
  - b. Discuss the diversity of the proposed team, including how team composition and members specifically enhance the thorough investigation of the chosen grand challenge, and contribute to the design of project strategies, operations, evaluation, and dissemination (inclusive of PIs, Co-PIs, Co-Is, collaborators, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate/undergraduate students as applicable).
  - c. A detailed description of the roles of the two co-PIs on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration. Each of the two co-PIs will be expected to make a robust contribution to the design and conduct of the project. If the two co-PIs have a history of collaboration (e.g., as evidenced by co-authored papers and/or jointly held grants), explain if the current application is an extension of prior work or a new direction.
  - d. Multi-PI management plan.
3. **Project plan (6 pages):**
  - a. Background and significance.
  - b. Identify the SRPP initiative and the specific goal(s) and objective(s) the project advances.
  - c. Hypotheses and research questions.
  - d. Preliminary findings or results (if applicable).
  - e. Research methodology.
  - f. Specific list and description of measurable outcomes/outputs that can be leveraged into external support including detailed evaluation plan.
  - g. Sustainability plan: Description of how project outcomes/outputs will advance the team's scholarly trajectory/line of inquiry, including specific information on applications for external funding, community impact, intellectual property, and/or other outcomes. This section is a leading criterion for award selection and should be sufficiently detailed to show a tangible return on investment within one year of project end date.
4. **References cited (no page limit):** Use the citation format appropriate for your field.
5. **Current or Prior Internal Funding (1 page):** Please give a brief description of any current or prior internal university funding received by the PI(s) including:
  - a. The source of internal funding, project title and a short description of the project and outcomes, project dates and the amount of the award(s).
  - b. A list of all external project(s) related to prior internal funding, including the source of funding, project dates, title, and amount of award.
6. **Timeline (1 page):** Outline major project milestones and associated timeframes for accomplishment(s) anticipated during the project period (between 18-24 months). Start date: May 1, 2022.
7. **Facilities and resources (no page limit).**
8. **Biographical Sketches:** NIH and NSF bio sketches accepted. If you do not have a current bio sketch, use this [bio sketch form](#).
9. **Budget & budget justification form:** Use this form to justify all requested costs associated with the proposed project. Breakthroughs funding cannot supplant existing support for the proposed project. Facilities and administrative (F&A or indirect) costs not allowed.

Eligible costs:

- a. Salary support for PI(s) and co-investigator(s) collectively cannot exceed 20% of total project costs. A detailed justification is required with approval via RAMS-SPOT by the department chair(s) and school(s)/college(s) for each PI.
- b. Salary support for research staff.
- c. Research supplies.
- d. Undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral stipends if relevant to the project with a detailed justification.
- e. Travel essential to the project.
- f. Other expenses (i.e., laboratory and shared core facilities/resource fees).
- g. Consultant costs.
- h. Equipment/technology critical to the project (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification).
- i. Participant fees.

Ineligible costs:

- a. Salary support for administrative personnel.
- b. Office equipment and supplies (including faculty computers/laptops/tablets unless strictly related to project).
- c. Travel not strictly related to the project.
- d. Tuition other than graduate student tuition.
- e. Professional organization dues or membership fees.
- f. Sub-contracts to institutions or salary support for individuals external to VCU.
- g. Pre-award costs.

11. **Current and pending support form**: Use the attached form to itemize all current and pending support associated with the proposed project.

**Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed and scored by a faculty panel including members from across the University. Reviews and scores will then be submitted to the SRPP Advisory Council. Recommendations from the Council will be forwarded to the VPRI for final approval. Written reviews and scores will be sent to those applicants not awarded. Review criteria include:

1. Merit: 1) scholarly merit and impact, and 2) feasibility (budget and timeline).
2. Broader impacts: 1) translational potential, and 2) potential for high return on investment.
3. Relation to Strategic Research Priorities Plan: specific potential for a project to further the goals and objectives identified.
4. Team: 1) PI(s) preparedness, 2) trans- and multi-disciplinary qualities, 3) diversity (meaningful participation of trainees, students, URM and early-stage investigators as well as cross-campus collaboration).

**Award and Reporting Requirements:** The award period is 18-24 months beginning on May 1, 2022. Fifty percent of award funding will be released at the start of the project period with the remaining 50% contingent submission of a six-month report documenting meaningful progress toward fulfillment of the project aims/goals. The VPRI and members of the Council will review progress in comparison to budget utilization and project milestones based on the initial project proposal. The remaining 50% of funds will only be released following approval from the VPRI. A final project report including an accounting of all funds expended and progress on sustainability plans will be required 30 days after the initial project end date.

**Questions:** Please direct all questions to Melissa Throckmorton, director of research development and strategic projects ([throckmortms@vcu.edu](mailto:throckmortms@vcu.edu)).

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## VCU QUEST FUND

**Purpose:** The goal of the VCU Quest Fund (Quest, formerly the VCU Presidential Research Quest Fund) is to afford all faculty an internal funding opportunity to support new, emerging, or continuing research. Research proposals that advance any discipline and area of research focus are appropriate for consideration. Requests for grant support may be based on a broad array of needs, from restarting an inactive research program to pilot studies that would produce preliminary results on which external grant applications could be based. Proposed work that helps advance transdisciplinary research, multidisciplinary research, and cross-campus collaboration, as well as research that has the potential for translation to practice or market, is especially encouraged.

**Eligibility:** The VCU Quest fund encourages trans- and multidisciplinary project proposals, as well as single-investigator projects. Principal investigators may be any full-time VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school. Inclusive research teams encompassing meaningful participation of all members, are strongly encouraged, including URM faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students. Projects must demonstrate alignment with a SRPP initiative, along with specific goal(s) and objective(s).

The following stipulations include current and past Presidential Research Quest Fund awardees, as well as future Quest awardees:

1. Faculty receiving a grant from the VCU Quest Fund as either a PI or Co-PI must delay subsequent applications to the Quest for a specified time depending on their rank. Early-stage (pre-tenure) faculty may submit a second proposal three years from the termination date of their first award. Senior faculty (tenured) are required to wait four years from the termination date of their first award, and
2. No faculty member may receive more than two Quest awards in a 10-year period.

**Award Period:** Funding up to \$50,000 total (including 25% required cost share from colleges/schools) for 18 months. Project start: July 1, 2022.

**Full proposal deadline:** Application packages should be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities here: [Quest: OP00000430](#) no later than **5pm (EST) on April 1, 2022**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt. **Applications will not be accepted after the deadline for any reason.**

**Format:** Applications should be single spaced, Arial, 11-point (minimum) font with half-inch margins on all sides. [Required forms can be downloaded here](#). Proposals not following the format requirements will be returned without review. **Proposals must include the following components in order:**

1. **Project abstract or specific aims (1 page)**
2. **Team Profile if applicable (1-2 pages):**
  - a. Full roster including name, affiliations (college/school/center/institute), and department, organized by discipline.
  - b. Discuss the diversity of the proposed team, including how team composition and members specifically enhance the thorough investigation of the chosen grand challenge, and contribute to the design of project

strategies, operations, evaluation, and dissemination (inclusive of PIs, Co-PIs, Co-Is, collaborators, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate/undergraduate students as applicable).

- c. A detailed description of the roles of the two co-PIs on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration. Each of the two co-PIs will be expected to make a robust contribution to the design and conduct of the project. If the two co-PIs have a history of collaboration (e.g., as evidenced by co-authored papers and/or jointly held grants), explain if the current application is an extension of prior work or a new direction.
  - d. Multi-PI management plan.
3. **Project plan (6 pages):**
- a. Background and significance.
  - b. Identify the SRPP initiative and the specific goal(s) and objective(s) the project advances.
  - c. Hypotheses and research questions.
  - d. Preliminary findings or results (if applicable).
  - e. Research methodology.
  - f. Specific list and description of measurable outcomes/outputs that can be leveraged into external support including detailed evaluation plan.
  - g. Sustainability plan: Description of how project outcomes/outputs will advance the team's scholarly trajectory/line of inquiry, including specific information on applications for external funding, community impact, intellectual property, and/or other outcomes. This section is a leading criterion for award selection and should be sufficiently detailed to show a tangible return on investment within one year of project end date.
4. **References cited (no page limit):** Use the citation format appropriate for your field.
5. **Current or Prior Internal Funding (1 page):** Please give a brief description of any current or prior internal university funding received by the PI(s) including:
- a. The source of internal funding, project title and a short description of the project and outcomes, project dates and the amount of the award(s).
  - b. A list of all external project(s) related to prior internal funding, including the source of funding, project dates, title, and amount of award.
6. **Timeline (1 page):** Outline major project milestones and associated timeframes for accomplishment(s) anticipated during the project period (18-months). Start date: July 1, 2022.
7. **Facilities and resources (no page limit).**
8. **Biographical Sketches:** NIH and NSF bio sketches accepted. If you do not have a current bio sketch, use this [bio sketch form](#).
9. **Budget & budget justification form:** Use this form to justify all requested costs associated with the proposed project. Clearly note the required 25% cost share funds. Quest funding cannot supplant existing support for the proposed project. Facilities and administrative (F&A or indirect) costs not allowed.

Eligible costs:

- a. Salary support for PI(s) and co-investigator(s) collectively cannot exceed 20% of total project costs. A detailed justification is required with approval via RAMS-SPOT by the department chair(s) and school(s)/college(s) for each PI.
- b. Salary support for research staff.
- c. Research supplies.
- d. Undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral stipends if relevant to the project with a detailed justification.
- e. Travel essential to the project.
- f. Other expenses (i.e., laboratory and shared core facilities/resource fees).
- g. Consultant costs.
- h. Equipment/technology critical to the project (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification).
- i. Participant fees.

Ineligible costs:

- a. Salary support for administrative personnel.
- b. Office equipment and supplies (including faculty computers/laptops/tablets unless strictly related to project).
- c. Travel not strictly related to the project.
- d. Tuition other than graduate student tuition.
- e. Professional organization dues or membership fees.
- f. Sub-contracts to institutions or salary support for individuals external to VCU.
- g. Pre-award costs.

10. **Current and pending support form:** Use the attached form to itemize all current and pending support associated with the proposed project.

**Proposal review:** The submission, review, and funding process are coordinated by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation. There are three levels of review: 1) schools and colleges level review and ranking with recommendations, 2) review and approval of level one recommendations by the Research Development Advisory Council (ReDAC), consisting of the associate deans for research from each school and college, and 3) ReDAC makes final recommendations for funding to the VPRI. Multi-investigator proposals will undergo initial review in all units from which cost share funds are requested. The number of proposals recommended for funding is dependent upon available funds. While each school/college/relevant unit will establish its own review process proposals are assessed in the following areas:

Scholarly merit of the project.

1. Merit: 1) scholarly merit and impact, and 2) feasibility (budget and timeline).
2. Broader impacts: 1) translational potential, and 2) potential for high return on investment.
3. Relation to Strategic Research Priorities Plan: specific potential for a project to further the goals and objectives identified.
4. Team if applicable: 1) PI(s) preparedness, 2) trans- and multi-disciplinary qualities, 3) diversity (meaningful participation of trainees, students, URM and early-stage investigators as well as cross-campus collaboration).
5. Additional school/college criteria as relevant.

**Award and Reporting Requirements:** The award period is 18 months beginning on July 1, 2022. Forty percent of award funding will be released at the start of the project period with the remaining 60% contingent submission of a six-month report documenting meaningful progress toward fulfillment of the project aims/goals. The VPRI and the respective PI(s) associate dean(s) for research will review progress in comparison to budget utilization and project milestones based on the initial project proposal. The remaining 60% of funds will only be released following approval from the VPRI. A final project report including an accounting of all funds expended and progress on sustainability plans will be required 30 days after the initial project end date.

**Questions:** For specific questions about proposal budgets, cost-share commitments, school/college level review and endorsement signatures contact your [Associate Dean for Research](#). All other questions may be directed to Melissa Throckmorton, director of research development and strategic projects, [throckmortms@vcu.edu](mailto:throckmortms@vcu.edu).

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**Additional requirements for all One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan Fund awards:**

1. Projects must have documented compliance approvals (e.g., IRB, IACUC), as applicable and appropriate, secured before work may begin.
2. The principal investigator(s) will be required to participate in an annual survey of results and outcomes (e.g., external grants submissions and awards, publications, creative work, intellectual property, etc.) associated with their SRPP fund-sponsored research. Participation will begin one year after the project end date and continue annually for a total of three years.
3. All publications, presentations, etc., resulting from the project must acknowledge financial support from the VCU Accelerate, Breakthroughs, or Quest Fund, as appropriate.
4. Projects are expected to be completed within the specific budget period. No-cost extensions will be granted only in highly exceptional circumstances. PIs will be expected to fully justify any extension requests in writing. Extensions are at the sole discretion of the VPRI.