The Office of Research and Creative Activity is pleased to announce a fifth and final round of competitive funding for the ***NDSU Bioinformatics Seed Grant Program***. Please see program guidelines below. Note that those who plan to apply for funding are required to send a Notice of Intent to Apply to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu by Feb. 26, 2018. The final application deadline is March 13, 2018.

NDSU Bioinformatics Seed Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issued: Feb. 12, 2018

Notification of Intent to Apply (REQUIRED): Email to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu by 5pm on Feb. 26, 2018. *For multi-investigator proposals, include the names of all investigators in the ***Notification of Intent to Apply.***

Application Deadline: 4:00PM CST on Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Total Funds Available: $80,000. Awards are anticipated to be made by July 2018. The end date of funded projects will be April 30, 2019. No extensions will be given.

In anticipation of another year of NIH funding, **the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity** invites competitive proposals for Bioinformatics Seed Grant research projects. These seed grants are intended to launch promising new research projects in bioinformatics, bringing them to the point where they can attract more funding from external sources. NDSU hopes to foster the development of a critical mass in bioinformatics research.

Proposals should combine innovative use of informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic and have application to NIH programs. A limit of up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget may be used for generating new experimental data.

Eligibility:
Full-time NDSU faculty and researchers are eligible to apply. Two categories of awards are offered: (1) Single investigators can apply for up to $15,000 in direct costs; and (2) Multi-investigator, multi-department proposals can apply for up to $40,000 in direct costs. **These proposals must include a minimum of three people and two academic departments.** The three individuals on a multi-investigator project must fit the eligibility criteria for this program. Eligible PIs are allowed to submit one single proposal and be a collaborator on one multi-investigator proposal. Post docs are not eligible for the single investigator category, but are eligible for the multi-investigator category and must meet the eligibility criteria.

Researchers are encouraged to consider partnering with NDSU's Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST). Contact Dane Skow, Executive Director, at Dane.Skow@ndsu.edu to discuss further.

Timeline:
Email complete proposal as a *single PDF file* to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu in the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity by **4:00PM, March 13, 2018.** Upon approval by NIH, awards are anticipated to be made by July 2018. Grant awards will be effective until April 30, 2019. Award recipients will be required to submit progress reports as requested (and a financial update) including a final report within 30 days of the end of the project.

Proposal Contents: [Some NIH forms (PHS 398) are being required for this competition.]
Please submit in the following order.
1. **Cover page**- Utilize the Cover Sheet provided with RFP
2. **PHS 398 Form Page 2**: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors. Note also downloadable instructions for the forms.

3. **Project Description–no more than 5 one-sided pages**, 1" margins, single-spaced, no less than 10-point font. The following items must be addressed within the project description:
    a. Description of project aims/objectives, deliverables, and proposed activities. The research should have application to NIH programs. The aims/objectives should be compelling and feasible and combine innovative use of computational and informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic.
    b. Description of the role of each team member.
    c. Description of research methods, activities, and timelines.
    d. Detailed plan on how the project will be implemented and managed.
    e. Detailed plan on how the project and its objectives will be evaluated, and how results will be analyzed and disseminated.
4. **References cited**.
5. **Facilities and equipment description** relevant to the proposed research. **One page or less**.
6. Identification of **two potential external funding programs** which could be targeted for future grant proposals to continue research based on the seed grant project. **One page or less**.
7. **Biographical sketch of PI(s)** in NIH format (**five page limit per person).** See instructions beginning on page 25 at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf
8. List of **Current and Pending Grant Support for each PI**.
9. If applicable, a description of any **human subject, animal, or biosafety** related research and the plan to obtain approval from the appropriate compliance office. **One page or less**.
10. Detailed **Budget and Budget Justification** – use PHS 398 Form Page 4: Instructions for budgets are on page 22 at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf. For multi-investigator budgets, include one budget per investigator and one cumulative budget. Graduate student stipends are highly encouraged. Faculty summer salary is allowable, but is generally discouraged and is limited to 0.5 month. Unallowable costs include equipment purchases exceeding $5,000, and travel costs. **Facilities and administrative costs (F&A) are required to be included in the budget. The F&A should be considered as additional to the $15,000 or $40,000 requested.** A limit of up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget may be used for generating new experimental data. The budget justification should include a clear description, by budget category, of the funds requested for generation of new experimental data.

Since this is an internal program, a Proposal Transmittal Form with approval from NDSU Sponsored Programs Administration is NOT necessary.

Primary Evaluation Criteria:

1. Proposals prepared and submitted according to established guidelines and procedures, including all supporting documents.
2. Compelling and feasible research aims/objectives combining innovative use of computational and informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic and applicable to NIH programs.
3. Scientific and technical merits of the proposed research, including soundness of the proposed project description, identification of specific goals, project significance, measurable outcomes, and contribution to the field.
4. Soundness of the implementation, management, and evaluation plans.
5. Potential for building bioinformatics strength at NDSU.
6. Potential for submission of competitive research proposals to external sources following the award period.

Review Process: (Incomplete proposals may be returned without review)

Review will be conducted by a peer review committee selected by the Office of Research and Creative Activity. The review committee may include faculty members from NDSU and/or outside institutions.

Questions? Please direct questions to Sheri Anderson, sheri.anderson@ndsu.edu, or 701-231-6573 or Kay Sizer, kay.sizer@ndsu.edu, 701-231-7035.