Request for Proposals - CEACSE Research Innovation and Strategic Expansion (RISE)

Overview

The CEACSE RISE program supports early-stage, high-potential research that strengthens the Research Institute's two centers: the Center for Urban Informatics and Progress (CUIP) and the Quantum Center. This call seeks innovative proposals that align with applied computational science and engineering, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and position researchers for future external funding.

Funding Details

The project period is one year, beginning **January 1st, 2026,** and ending **December 31st, 2026.**
Each selected proposal may receive up to **$70,000**, allocated to support:
- One month of summer salary for faculty, research faculty, or postdoctoral staff
- One year of PhD summer student support (stipend + fringe/tuition as applicable)
- Additional funds for supplies or travel to a conference to present preliminary results or build research networks

Eligibility

- Limit to **one award per Lead PI**
- Lead PI must be faculty, research faculty, or a postdoctoral staff member of an institution within the UT System
- If Lead PI is not a UTC employee, then they must be an advisor or co-advisor to a UTC PhD student *(if co-advisor, a letter of support from the student's primary advisor is required)*
- Projects must contribute to the research goals of either CUIP or the Quantum Center
- Preference will be given to early-career faculty and those pursuing external funding or interdisciplinary research

Proposal Requirements

Submit a 3-page narrative that includes the following sections:
1. Project Description
    a. Overview of the research problem
    b. Objectives and anticipated outcomes
    c. Relevance to applied computational science and/or engineering
2. Significance and Innovation
    a. Novelty of the proposed approach
    b. Potential for external funding or larger-scale research
3. Methodology
    a. Technical approach, tools, and/or computational methods
    b. Timeline and milestones
4. Outcomes and Impact

     a. Plans for external grant submission (agency and timeline) *(for postdoctoral staff, this can be satisfied as participating as senior personnel on others' proposals, due to UTC's limits on PI roles)*

     b. Long-term goals and anticipated impact

5. Budget and Justification
     a. One month of summer pay for PI
     b. One year of PhD student support
     c. Supplies or travel: estimated cost and purpose

6. *If co-advisor to a UTC PhD student, a letter of support from the PhD student's primary advisor is required. This is not counted toward the page limit.*

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Innovation and Significance
- Technical Approach
- Likelihood of External Funding
- Student Training Potential
- Budget Appropriateness

Timeline

- RFP Release: **May 5th, 2025**
- Proposal Deadline: **July 15th, 2025**
- Award Notification: **August 15th, 2025**
- Project Period: **January 1st, 2026-December 31st, 2026**

Reporting Requirements

If awarded, the lead PI is expected to submit one midterm report (due July 31st, 2026) detailing their progress at the halfway point of the project period, as well as a final report detailing the project's outcome (due January 1st, 2027). The reports should include 1) research updates (1 to 2 pages); 2) student progress including publications, awards, presentations, etc (1 page); and 3) plan for extramural funding and/ or extramural grants applied for and their status. These will be submitted via email.

Expectations:

- PI and project team participate in CEACSE program technical meetings.
- Publications include credit lines acknowledging CEACSE support.
- Reports are submitted on time.

Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted via email by **July 15th, 2025,** as a single PDF to Hannah Archer (hannah-archer@utc.edu) **and** Claudia Colpo (claudia-colpo@utc.edu). You will receive a confirmation reply after submitting. **<u>Any submissions received after 5pm on July 15th will not be considered.</u>**