



Mayo Clinic and  
Arizona State University  
Alliance for Health Care

## 2024 Collaborative Research Seed Grant Program

The Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Alliance for Health Care Collaborative Research Seed Grant Program has four significant dates for the 2024 cycle.

1. Preliminary proposals are due **March 4, 2024, by 5:00 pm (AZ)**
2. Full proposals are due **April 22, 2024, by 5:00 pm (AZ)**
3. Award notifications will be sent at the beginning of June 2024.
4. Awards will be activated in July 2024.

**Purpose:** The Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Alliance for Health Care is offering a Seed Grant Program to encourage new collaborative research projects between Mayo Clinic in Arizona and Arizona State University (ASU). Consideration will be given to all projects, especially those related to the strategic priorities of the Alliance, including:

- **Transform the workforce:** Disrupting medical, health science, and professional education for the future of healthcare and lifelong learner.
- **Optimize health and the human body:** Enhancing human performance across the lifespan through collaborative research, the exploration of innovative treatments and cures.
- **Connected healthcare delivery:** Streamlining healthcare through novel capabilities, leveraging digital health tools to reach patients where they are.
- **Biomedical innovation: Co-creating and co-developing new medical devices and start-up companies toward the modernization of healthcare.**
- **Innovations in the detection and management of Cancer.** Applications are especially encouraged in topics related to: 1) Population-based early risk assessment and/or cancer detection, 2) Cancer metabolism, 3) Molecular structure modeling for cancer therapeutics, or 4) Nanomaterials in cancer care.

The projects selected for funding will be those that involve an active, hands-on role of both Mayo Clinic and ASU investigators. The projects should be well-designed pilot studies with clear milestones that ultimately meet the following expectation: within 18 months of being awarded a Seed Grant, a competitive, collaborative proposal will be submitted to an extramural funding agency.

Research projects may be laboratory or clinic based. Highest priority will be given to new projects with the greatest likelihood of enhancing future collaboration between Mayo Clinic and ASU. The site of the work may be at either Mayo Clinic or ASU, or both.

**Awards:** Individual projects are eligible for funding up to but not greater than \$100,000 for total project costs. Projects are 12 months in duration.

### Eligibility:

- ASU tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty (Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Professors, Instructors, Lecturers, Research Assistant Professors, Research Associate Professors, and Research Professors) are eligible.
- Mayo Clinic personnel, this opportunity is open to consultants, senior associate consultants, and associate consultant faculty, as well as staff within Mayo Clinic Department of Nursing.
- Applicants must apply based on their primary affiliation. E.g., a joint appointee with an 80% Mayo Clinic and 20% ASU appointment will be considered a Mayo investigator for this opportunity.
- Each proposal must identify a single principal investigator (PI) representing each organization.
- Only one application per PI will be accepted.
- PIs who have been awarded seed grant funds from this program since 2021 are ineligible.
- If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the individuals listed at the end of this RFA.

### Unallowable Cost Items:

- Institutional indirect rates
- Principal Investigator compensation
- Capital equipment
- Travel for scientific meetings (travel for collaboration with project PIs is allowable)

### Application Requirements:

**Preliminary Proposal (Required):** ASU PI's (or their ASU representative) must submit a preliminary proposal through the online [InfoReady competition site](#). The preliminary proposal should include:

1. An abstract of the proposed study addressing its significance and alignment with the strategic areas listed above (limited to 500 words)
2. Names of all Mayo Clinic and ASU team members. Each pre-proposal must identify a single principal investigator (PI) representing each organization.
3. Biosketches of the Mayo Clinic and ASU PIs.

The preliminary proposal is **due by March 4, 2024**. Upon submitting, you will be asked to certify that all PIs are aware of the proposed collaborative project.

A committee composed of representatives from Mayo Clinic and ASU will review all submitted applications with regard to their significance and alignment with the strategic areas of interest. Email invitations for full proposal submission will be sent to the Mayo Clinic and ASU PI by **March 31, 2024**.

**Full Proposals:** The ASU principal investigator (or their ASU representative) should submit a PDF of the proposal through the online InfoReady competition site. A custom submission link will be provided after the notification of interest is confirmed. The **deadline is April 22, 2024**. The full proposal should not exceed six (6) pages (single-spaced, 12-point font, 0.5" margins all around). For the proposal, please submit a single PDF comprised of the following items:

1. The one-page Cover Page should include:
  - Title
  - List of investigators and their respective institutional affiliation
  - Abstract of the proposed study (500 words)
2. The remaining five pages should contain the **Project Description** using the following headings:
  - Hypotheses and Specific Aims
  - Significance
  - Methods (including clear and specific contributions by each investigator)
  - Statistical Methods, if applicable
  - Interpretation of Possible Study Results (both positive and negative)
  - Research Milestones
  - Future Proposed Extramural Funding Source (agency or foundation and program), Expected Budget, and Submission Date
3. **Biosketches** for all the ASU and Mayo Clinic Principal Investigators and team members [using the NIH biosketch format](#), plus a list of current and pending awards.
4. **Ancillary support items:**
  - **Additional materials/appendices** (not included in the six pages described above):
    - References
  - **Proposals that involve animals must include the following IACUC information:**
    1. **Species:** List the species and numbers of animals to be used.
    2. **Procedures:** Briefly describe each of the procedures to be performed on live animals.
    3. **USDA Category of Pain or Distress:** List the highest USDA Category of Pain and Distress

(C, D, or E).

4. **IACUC approval:** Provide current or pending protocol number, status of approval, and institution.

\*\*\* If IACUC approval is needed, the process will flow through the site conducting the animal research.

• **Proposals that involve humans must include the following IRB information:**

1. **Human Subjects Involvement, Characteristics, and Design:** Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the project outlined in the Research Strategy section.

2. **Potential Risks:** Describe the potential risks to subjects (physical, psychological, financial, legal, or other), and assess their likelihood and seriousness to the human subjects.

3. **Protections Against Risk:** Describe planned procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to the privacy of individuals or confidentiality of data, and assess their likely effectiveness.

4. **Current or pending protocol number and institution, if applicable.**

\*\* If awarded, the account will not be set up until IRB approval is obtained.

\*\*\*Please note that Mayo Clinic will be the IRB of record, will provide IRB approval, and must be notified well in advance of the award setup.

**Budget:** The project budget will be created in partnership with OSPA (Mayo Clinic) and ORSPA (ASU) following award announcements. Budgets are not necessary at the pre-award/application stage. After the award announcement— Mayo and ASU PIs, in collaboration with their Research Administration offices, should create a budget with a combined total of up to \$100,000. The funds should be shared between Mayo and ASU PIs based on project needs and relevant allowability.

**Evaluation:** A study section, composed of representatives from Mayo Clinic and ASU, will review and evaluate all submitted full proposals. The study section will include Alliance leadership, past program awardees, and relevant subject matter experts from each organization. The review will focus on several key elements, including scientific interest and innovation, the validity of the proposed methodology, the meaningful contributions from all investigators, the feasibility of the project in the time frame allotted, and the likelihood that the proposed work will lead to a competitive external grant application or otherwise significantly enhance future Alliance collaborations.

**Reporting Requirements:**

- A progress report is required 12 months following the award and should provide an overview of project progress against proposed milestones, as well as highlight progress toward the pursuit of external funding (a template will be provided).
- **One no-cost extension can be exercised at the end of 12 months only with a completed progress report on file — the one-time, no-cost extension is limited to a maximum of six months.**
- A final written report, including one copy of the research proposal submitted to the external funding source, must be submitted to the program office within 6 months of project completion.

**Investigator Questions:**

For scientific questions or assistance in identifying a potential collaborator, please contact:

**Arizona State University**

Matthew Hulver, Ph.D.

Vice President of Research, Professor

Knowledge Enterprise

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**Mayo Clinic in Arizona**

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For all other questions regarding the Seed Grant Program, please contact:

**Arizona State University**

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