



***Innovations* Small Grants Program 2022-2023**

Call for Proposals

The goal of the School of Nursing's *Innovations* small grants program is to increase the school's capacity to fulfill its research and scholarship mission and ultimately advance nursing practice, science, and education by investing in ground-breaking research and scholarship projects, the formation of new interdisciplinary and diverse collaborations, and the exploration of innovative ways to serve our communities. The program aims to support innovative programs of research and scholarship by investing in projects that will: a) lead to external funding applications for larger studies or projects, b) produce meaningful contributions to nursing science/scholarship via impactful publications, c) support the formation of new strategic collaborations, d) increase the research/scholarship capacity of our faculty, and e) expand our portfolio of dissemination and community engagement programs.

Types of projects that are eligible for funding:

1. **Pilot research/scholarship** – two awards up to \$20,000 each may be funded to conduct work to gather essential preliminary evidence to support a well-defined external grant application or to support meaningful research/scholarship contributions. A successful pilot application will clearly discuss the significance of the principal investigator's research/scholarship program and its relevance to nursing science/scholarship, identify the external grant application it will target as well as other expected deliverables (e.g., publications), outline a robust framework (rationale for aims and rigor for methods), and justify how the work funded by this program will strategically support the development of the principal investigator's program of research/scholarship. Applications that fail to meet these requirements might not be consider for funding.
2. **New research/scholarship collaboration** – four awards up to \$5,000 each may be funded to conduct a small pilot study, feasibility assessment (e.g., validate a scale/instrument, test a recruitment strategy, determine the feasibility of a complex measurement), scoping/strategic planning work (e.g., develop and publish a conceptual framework), or other meaningful scholarship work (e.g., produce a podcast, generate new online content relevant to nurses and/or the communities we serve, or a new large external grant or intervention project) among a team of new collaborators. A successful application for this mechanism will clearly discuss the significance of the principal investigator's research/scholarship program and its relevance to nursing science/scholarship and delineate the rationale for the collaborative work emphasizing how it will help the principal investigator advance their research/scholarship program. Future collaborative work should also be clearly defined in the application. Applications that fail to meet these requirements might not be consider for funding.
3. **Development program** – two awards up \$10,000 each may be funded to support mentored research/scholarship training activities of SON faculty. Specifically, funds can be used to support the engagement of a research/scholarship external mentor, travel (e.g., for mentee/mentor interactions), conduct collaborative research/scholarship pilot work, and/or complete well-justified training workshops/courses. A successful application for this mechanism will clearly discuss the significance of the principal investigator's research/scholarship program and its relevance to nursing science/scholarship, relevance of the mentor's experience to the principal investigator's program of research, provide evidence of capacity and interest of the mentor to serve in such role, and outline a robust mentorship plan including clear research/scholarship deliverables (e.g., manuscripts/grants) and outcomes. Applications that fail to meet these requirements might not be consider for funding.

Note: Projects must be completed within 1-year. Individuals/teams are allowed to apply for only one of these mechanisms during a single funding cycle. Faculty interested in applying are encouraged to contact Hector A. Olvera-Alvarez at olveraal@ohsu.edu early in the process.

Innovations Cycle for 2021-2022

Application deadline: September 30st, 2022

Anticipated notice of awards: October 31st, 2022

Earliest start date: December 1st, 2022 (IRB approval should be received prior to start if necessary).

Submit completed applications to: Hector A. Olvera-Alvarez at olveraal@ohsu.edu and copy to ORDS at SNORDS@ohsu.edu

Eligibility

SON faculty with full-time appointments are eligible to apply for any of the mechanisms described in this announcement.

Previous principal investigators of *Innovations* grants are eligible to apply but priority will be given to new applicants, those exploring new research/scholarship lines, and/or early career investigators (those without history of NIH funding).

Budget Considerations

Eligible expenses: Personnel costs for research staff, services, supplies, and small equipment are eligible. Travel expenses necessary for conducting the project (not including attending conferences) are also allowed. Other allowable expenses include compensation of mentors (honorarium up to \$5000), costs of training workshops/courses that are directly linked to a research/scholarship deliverable.

Food and refreshments if necessary for meetings that include participants other than the study team (e.g., focus groups) might be considered with justification (**check with ORSD**).

Ineligible expenses: Funds cannot be used to pay faculty salaries or FTE for the PI and co-investigators nor tuition and fees for research assistants; travel to professional meetings to disseminate results or for general development; to cover indirect costs. Funds cannot be used to support academic requirements for an advanced degree but can be used for well justified training workshops (e.g., statistics, research methods) necessary to conduct well-defined research/scholarship tasks (e.g., perform a specific analysis, write a manuscript, design a study).

Important: You must work with SON ORDS staff to develop your budget ***in advance*** of submitting your proposal. Applications will be considered incomplete until an ORDS staff has reviewed your budget and given you the correct information for planned expenses.

Request a meeting at SNORDS@ohsu.edu to get support on the budget process from ORDS. The budget should be approximately a page in length and include line items with costs, followed by a narrative budget justification. Develop a draft of this before you meet with ORDS staff.

Expected Proposal Format

A. **Cover page** – see last page of this document (PI and other investigators; study title, research/scholarship topic area, budget requested; ORDS approval of budget)

B. **Abstract**

C. **Budget page** (budget and budget justification)

D. **Body of the proposal** (up to 4 pages in length [excluding references], single spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins, with headers designating separate sections). Also include the following sections:

1. **Introduction and Specific Aims** – Discuss the significance of the principal investigator’s research/scholarship program and its relevance to nursing science/scholarship and outline the project’s goals/specific aims and the expected outcomes.

2. **Background, Significance, and Innovation** – Provide strong rationale -using the literature as evidence- for the significance of the study by clearly discussing how the proposed line of work will impact nursing. Also highlight the innovative aspects of the application. For collaboration applications provide rationale for the collaboration and how the expertise of the team members and the principal investigator will be integrated. For mentored research/scholarship experiences discuss the expertise and expected contributions of the mentor to the principal investigator’s training and research/scholarship program.

3. **Methods/Approach** – Provide a detailed and specific plan to achieve project’s goals; if applicable describe sampling and data collection plans and how data will be analyzed; make sure the reviewer knows exactly what you plan to do and in what sequence and timeline; describe any tools or approaches to data collection, such as surveys, interview guides, or focus group questions. Use a table for tools, data collection, and timeline if you think it will facilitate clarity. At the end, state specifically how the specific aims of the project will be met. For collaboration/mentorship applications provide a description of the tasks each collaborator/mentor will conduct as well a detailed plan for the collaboration (e.g., meeting schedules, who will do what and when), and what are the expected deliverables. For mentorship experienced application a letter of support from the mentor is expected with the application. The letter should outline how the mentor will contribute to the attainment of the aims and the mentorship plan.

4. **Plan for Sustainability** – is applicable, outline specific plans for what external grants you will submit to continue the line of research/scholarship or what future activities you expect to attain after the completion of the proposed project. Name at least one external funding source to which you will apply, if applicable.

E. **References** (not included in page limit)

F. **Appendices** (not included in page limit. Include data collection tools and a brief biosketch for each investigator and consultant. Include letters of support only if pertinent, such as an assurance for access to subjects or permission to use a tool.)

Important note: In planning your application, allocate ample space for the Methods section. While reviewers want to see worthy aims, pertinent literature, and convincing statements about the study's significance, innovation, and sustainability, it is in the methods section that you convince reviewers that you have a rigorous plan to the attainment of your proposed project. Do not skimp on pages dedicated to describing your methods.

Application reviews

Proposals will be peer-reviewed by experts internal and/or external to the SON. A summary of reviewer comments is provided to applicants.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Significant:** The outcomes and deliverables produced upon completion of the work outlined by proposed project will meaningfully increase the research/scholarship capacity of the School of Nursing at OHSU.
2. **Innovative:** The proposed work upon successful completion will advance a well-defined program of research/scholarship that addresses an important issue (supported by the current state of the science/practice) in an innovative way or addresses a new important issue. All types of applications need to delineate the program of research/scholarship that will be supported by the grant.
3. **Synergistic and Sustainable:** The proposed work effectively leverages infrastructure, capacity, skills, opportunities, and/or experience currently existent within the School of Nursing or at OHSU. The project also clearly outlines how the activities, deliverables, and outcomes produced from the funded work will support the sustainability of a program of research/scholarship, as well as the immediate research/scholarship activities that will follow upon completion of the proposed work.
4. **Merit:** The methods of the study, mentorship plans, and/or collaboration plans are rigorous, well described, appropriate for achieving project aims, and have strong scientific merit.
5. **Feasible:** The scope of the study is appropriate for a 1-year timeframe and the budget is appropriate.

Reporting Requirements

A brief final report is due at the end of the study. Disseminating findings via peer-reviewed publications is always an expectation. Also expected is a presentation to faculty at a Faculty Assembly meeting, with an emphasis on return on investment of the grant to the school. Send this report to Hector A. Olvera-Alvarez olveraal@ohsu.edu and copy Jennifer Dunfield dunfield@ohsu.edu in ORDS by the completion of the study.