Request for Proposals: CDAC Discovery Grants
Applications Due: Friday, November 1, 2019 by 11:59 PM CT
Apply Online: UChicago Funding Portal
Project Period: 12 months
Summary: *Funding for interdisciplinary data science and artificial intelligence research projects at the University of Chicago.*

The CDAC Discovery Grants program supports multidisciplinary projects and exploratory convenings that have the potential for high-impact research breakthroughs or new technological innovations.

The goals of the program are to: 1). amplify the UChicago data science community by encouraging new collaborations across departments, divisions, and units, 2). catalyze early-stage research projects that advance data science methods, tools, or theory, 3). position these projects to successfully scale and secure future research funding.

Award Categories:
During the Autumn 2019 cycle, we are pleased to invite proposals for two categories of awards:

1. Collaborative research projects: early-stage research focused on data science methods, tools, or theory, executed by multidisciplinary teams from multiple departments/units.
2. Exploratory convenings: workshops, invited speaker talks, working groups, or other convenings focused on novel, interdisciplinary, data-driven or computing research topics.

	Collaborative Research Projects	Exploratory Convenings
Funding $	$50K - $100K	up to $15K
Project Period	12-months	12-months
Description	Allow projects to collect pilot/ preliminary data, results or analysis that can lead to external collaborative grant applications.	Provide support to facilitate the development of grant proposals, convenings, or other collaborative projects.

Benefits

Grant recipients will also benefit from a suite of resources designed to help projects scale:

- **Identification of follow on funding:** assistance in developing customized, long-term plans for securing external funding in subsequent stages of the project.
- **Interdisciplinary networks:** access to our network of academic, civic, government, and industry connections.
- **Community:** Engagement with the University data science community through invite-only events, talks, and receptions for all award recipients.
- **Communications:** amplification of research results through our website, news articles, and events.
- **Technical Staff & Cloud Computing Resources:** access to technical programming staff and potentially cloud computing credits. If you are awarded promotional credits for free usage of cloud services, credits must be used within the 12-month project period.
- **Doctoral Fellows:** Opportunity to nominate a PhD researcher involved in a proposed project as a CDAC Doctoral Fellow. Fellows will receive a travel stipend and gain membership in a cohort of PhD student researchers in data science, with funding for cohort-chosen speakers and other programming.

Review Criteria

Successful projects should:

- Advance data-driven applications, models, algorithms, and platforms as is not already being done in the investigators' fields.
- Articulate the innovative approach of the proposed research both within data science and the domain field.
- Involve new collaborations between different units within the University of Chicago that can amplify our growing data science ecosystem on campus.
- Demonstrate that CDAC funding is required to advance the project and secure external funding. Funding priority will be given to proposals that have not received previous funding support from CDAC, internal or external funding mechanisms.

Eligibility & Terms

- Principal Investigator must have PI status at UChicago. Please find more information about [UChicago PI eligibility and policies here](#).
- Proposals must include multidisciplinary teams that involve participants from two or more units *within* the University of Chicago (e.g., departments, divisions, schools). Collaborations may include researchers from the Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTIC).
- Applicants may submit more than one application, with the same or different collaborative teams, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
- Current members of the CDAC Steering Committee are eligible to apply, provided that they recuse themselves during the review and voting on their proposal.

Budget Guidelines *(for Collaborative Research Projects)*

- A portion of the requested budget will ideally be used to support a student or postdoc conducting research on the project.
- Projects that intend to hire research personnel, such as postdoctoral researchers or other professional (non-student) research assistants, must include a line item for salary and fringe benefits in the project budget.
- Postdoctoral researchers will only be funded to the extent that they are working on CDAC Discovery research projects.
- Support from CDAC may not be used for :
    - Faculty salary support, course reduction, academic leave, or summer salary.
    - The purchase of equipment at institutions other than UChicago.
    - Indirect costs.

Review & Award Process

- Proposals will be reviewed by the CDAC Steering Committee.
- Funded projects must submit a report narrative and final financial report within 30 days after the close of the project period.
- Funded projects will provide updates on research outputs and impact metrics (such as publications, external funding secured, patents/licenses, conference presentations) through a short annual survey during the two years following the close of the project period.
- For research projects, awardees will meet with the CDAC team to develop a customized, long-term plan for securing external funding within the first 6-months of the project period.
- For research projects, investigators will be asked to present their research at and attend monthly cohort lunches.

Timeline

- [Proposer's Day: October 15, 2019](#)
- **Application Deadline: November 1, 2019 at 11:59pm CT**
- Earliest project start date: January 6, 2019

Application Instructions

- Proposals must be submitted using the [UChicago InfoReady portal](#). Detailed submission instructions and budget templates are provided as part of the submission process. For a preliminary overview of the application, please see InfoReady's "Preview" section.
- NB: There are separate applications for the two award categories: [Collaborative Research Projects](#) and [Exploratory Convenings](#). Please be sure to use the correct application for your proposal type.
- If you are visiting the portal for the first time, you will need to create a new account.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Application Requirements:

- *Investigator Information* (Profile Information, Biosketch)
- *Abstract* (200 words max)
- *Research Plan/Convening Proposal* (2 pages max, excluding references): Please describe your research/convening idea and why it is important, why this work requires collaboration, how this proposed work will be done and anticipated outcomes, data management, and the specific funding opportunities or collaborative projects you will target should the project generate expected data, analysis or results.
- *Budget and Budget Narrative* (a budget template is available for download on the InfoReady application site < "Competition Files")
- *Optional Supplementary Materials*: Applicants may upload supplementary materials, such as references, diagrams, images. The supplementary materials should not be used to circumvent the page limitations.