Discovery Partners Institute Seed Grant Program
May 21, 2020
Our team and today’s (short) agenda

1. What DPI Is
2. Our Approach to Research
3. DPI Value Proposition
4. Seed Grant Process
5. Q&A
The Discovery Partners Institute has three missions

- Tech Talent Development
- Tech Research, Basic and Applied
- Ecosystem to Foster Economic Development
Faculty engagement values

**Believe** active engagement of faculty key to success of DPI

**Seek** to build partnerships across university system around research opportunities

**Aim** to provide the best available support for faculty teams to succeed

**Build** trust through open communication and active engagement
For R&D, we are focused on team science at the intersection of advantaged sectors and capabilities.

Science teams across partner institutions combine capabilities and sectors to create economic and societal impact.
The role of DPI is to help make science teams successful

**What We Seek**

- Multi-disciplinary, ideally cross-institutional
- Leaders with a clear shared vision for intellectual, economic, and societal impact
- Potential to build to research program targeting large (center-scale) grant opportunities
- Actionable and measurable plan to capture this potential

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**What We Offer**

- Support for growing your research capacity
- Networking with a growing community of scientists from all campuses, DPI partner organizations, enabling teams to expand rapidly
- Access to industry contacts and possible industry funding
  - Joint research, commercialization…
- Resources
  - Seed funding for team vision refinement, planning, and startup
  - Space in Chicago for collaboration, workshops, etc.
  - Proposal-development and project management services
- (Chicago-based) education, outreach, and training programs to assist teams in rounding out their broader impact

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*What we plan to offer as we scale: proposal development, review, and submission support; project management and reporting assistance for grants; technical staffing pool for common skills such as web development, software development, data preparation, etc.; liaison with industry to assist in identifying industry funding opportunities.*
The goal of the seed program is to help teams secure significant long-term funding.
Review criteria

1. Team
   - Clear vision and targets
   - Leadership and mix of interdisciplinary expertise
   - Right partnerships
   - Ability to execute the vision and strong potential to capture significant non-DPI funding

2. Scientific Merit
   - Potential to create a “best in class” R&D effort within one or more DPI sectors
   - Exploration of creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts with potential for large-scale impact
   - Well-reasoned and well-organized action plan

3. Broader Impact
   - Potential for positive impact on the Illinois economy
   - Potential for positive social impact (workforce diversity, economic opportunity, societal well being, etc.)
   - Potential to link to educational mission—at UI and partner campuses, and potentially for K-12 also
Science Team

Plan

Resources Required
Proposal submission mechanics

Plan

1. R&D Abstract (<250 words)
2. Description of activities including timeline and milestones (<4p)
3. Brief description on DPI alignment and potential for economic impact (<1p)
4. Statement of work and timetable for the seed grant activities (<1p)
5. Statement on external (governmental, foundation, corporate, NGO, etc.) funding. Please provide titles and links to specific proposals/partners (if known):
   • List any existing external funding commitments which currently support the applicants’ research activities
   • List any identified external funding programs/prospects that the proposed team intends to pursue
6. Faculty and team members, include 2p CVs of investigators
7. Letters of support from partners (if any) that describe their role
8. Bibliography

Resources Required

Budget for requested funding, with narrative justification, that does not exceed $125,000.
• Expenses should be divided into major categories (e.g. personnel, equipment/use fees, supplies, travel, support).
• PIs may not receive more than $5,000 from this program.
• Faculty from DPI partner institutions (external to the UI System) are encouraged to participate but cannot receive salary/wages from this program.
• Indirect costs are not permissible.

For proposal formatting please follow font and margin guidelines typical of federal funding proposals with the goals of readability and fairness. Specifically:
• Arial, Courier New, Palatino at 10pt or larger; Times New Roman 11pt or larger except for mathematical formulas, captions, tables, etc.
• Maximum 6 lines of text per vertical inch; blank margins minimum 1”; paper size 8.5x11”
• Standard, single-column pages.