



Office of the Vice President for Research **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the OVPR Quarterly Strategic Investment Process – FY26**

1. Does this process replace funding mechanisms for extramural proposal mandatory cost share, start-ups/retention offers, core/specialized facilities, or other processes?

The OVPR Quarterly Strategic Investment does not replace these funding activities. Requests for these and other processes will continue to be handled separately.

2. Are there limits to the amount of funding that can be requested?

The minimum funding amount that will be considered for this process is \$5,000. In general, the maximum is \$50,000. Requests over \$50,000 may be considered if there is substantial campus-wide impact of the proposal and there is substantial financial contribution from campus partners. If you are considering a proposal over \$50,000, please reach out to RAO prior to submission. Although there is no maximum on the amount that can be requested with match/cost share, the Quarterly Strategic Investment fund has a limited amount of funds available, therefore awards are limited to the funds available. As such, funding large requests (e.g., > \$50K) through this mechanism may be challenging. We encourage proposers seeking such large contributions from the OVPR to initiate a discussion prior to submission.

3. Are matching funds required?

Requests that do and don't have match/cost share will be considered. For requests without match, the maximum allowable request is \$10,000 from the OVPR. Requests over \$10,000 from the OVPR must demonstrate shared funding participation from non-OVPR contributors. Requests below the minimum amount should be directed to other appropriate college/departmental channels. If only a small amount of funding is required, applicants with similar needs may aggregate these requests into one proposal that meets the minimum request amount. Substantial matching funds will be required for any proposal over \$50,000.

4. What is the review process? What funding criteria are being used?

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the OVPR Leadership Council and an internal review committee that may include members of VPR advisory groups, the Council of Research Associate Deans, former recipients of quarterly investment funds, and other university faculty/staff as needed. The final allocation decisions will be made by the Vice President for Research. Proposals will be evaluated based on the merits of the request, considering the information provided and the review



criteria given in the RFP. Special consideration will be given to activities that are broad-reaching and/or cross-disciplinary in nature. Likewise, collaborative cost share funding from PIs, colleges, departments, and other sources is strongly encouraged and will be viewed positively in the review process.

5. How long will it take to make funding decisions?

Funding decisions for proposals submitted under this process are anticipated to be made within 6 weeks following the submission deadline.

6. What if there is a critical funding need that falls outside the submission period?

The OVPR may accept critical requests with significant time constraints (e.g., emergency catastrophic instrument failures) outside of the cycles for this process. These potential requests should be brought **by the Research Associate Dean for the requesting college or, if outside of a college, by the institute director or vice president for the unit**, and made directly to the attention of Dinaida Egan (dinaida.lopez@colostate.edu), Research Acceleration Office (RAO) Director, for guidance prior to reaching out to OVPR senior leadership directly.

7. Does the Quarterly Strategic Investment support mandatory cost share funding needs for sponsored awards?

Requests for mandatory cost share support from the OVPR will not be accepted through this mechanism. Requests for mandatory cost share must be submitted through [CSU's InfoReady Review](#) system for consideration by the OVPR (find the "CSU – OVPR Mandatory Cost Share Requests" opportunity to apply).

8. Will requests for bridge funds to retain faculty, staff, or other personnel, or to fill a gap in research project funding be allowed?

No. Traditional bridge funding requests to support temporary funding gaps in ongoing research programs that have lost funding will not be supported. If faculty retention issues arise, these should be brought directly to the VPR by the relevant dean and should not go through this process.

9. Can I request renovation funds through this process?

One of the eligible cost categories is research infrastructure, including construction, alteration, or renovation of research space. A request in this category, however, should be focused on new needs or opportunities (e.g. new research directions that require alteration to the physical space), rather than renovations associated with general project needs or aesthetics.



10. I submitted a proposal and was provided funding in a prior period. Can I submit another funding proposal in the future?

Funding decisions are based on the merits of the proposals received within a given funding period. Given the limited funding available, the OVPR seeks to make funds available as broadly as possible across the entire campus. Nevertheless, the OVPR will accept multiple funding requests from the same individual, but not in the same cycle and not for the same project. Applicants who have been funded for requests in the immediate previous cycle are discouraged from submitting another request.

11. I submitted a proposal and was not provided funding in a prior cycle. Can I submit another funding proposal in the future?

Feedback will be provided on all requests in each funding cycle and unfunded requests may be submitted in a subsequent cycle. We encourage PIs to discuss the feedback they received prior to a resubmission. Funding decisions are based on the merits of the proposals received in a given funding period, and applications do not automatically transfer from one cycle to another.

12. Which types of non-OVPR cost share contributions are allowable?

The OVPR generally views financial support from local units as indicative of higher prioritization within those units. Cost share may come from any combination of PI, department, college, or other internal/external sources. However, **contributions of CSU personnel time from either faculty, staff, or students may not be utilized** as cost share for the Quarterly Strategic Investment mechanism.

13. Conferences/Workshops/Special Events are listed as activities that may be supported. Does this include funding to attend these events or is it limited to hosting events?

The OVPR will not consider requests for support to attend conferences/workshops/events for CSU personnel. The OVPR will consider requests to sponsor or host these events at CSU, particularly for events with significant levels of external participation and visibility, but these must be for one-time needs and cannot be ongoing.

14. Will the OVPR consider requests for development of curriculum that has research components?

No, curriculum components will not be funded under this mechanism.