ILLINOIS CSBS

CSBS Interdisciplinary Research Networks (IRN) Program

The Center for Social & Behavioral Science (CSBS) invites applications from investigators to work across disciplines to develop solutions to societal problems using innovative social and behavioral science.

The purpose of the CSBS Interdisciplinary Research Networks (IRN) program is to lower the barriers for collaboration across disciplines and facilitate interdisciplinary research that can address societal problems. The program will provide support for investigators from multiple disciplines to come together to share information and ideas; coordinate new research activities; foster synthesis and new collaborations; develop a resource to benefit social and behavioral science research; or advance interdisciplinary science in other ways through communication, idea generation, and exploration of complex research projects. **Interdisciplinary teams can request up to $5,000** to fund activities that may not otherwise happen because of a lack of financial resources.

Proposed network activities should be tied to a theme to give coherence to the collaboration. This can include, but is not limited to, a broad research question, a challenge for social and behavioral science (e.g., particular analytical method or tool), or a unique approach to addressing a major societal problem—that is, a condition that negatively impacts a sizeable number of people.

Proposals will be evaluated on their potential to (1) advance interdisciplinary research that can contribute to addressing societal problems with social and behavioral science and (2) develop an external funding application to further advance and sustain the collaborative research such as research grants, center grants, and research coordination grants. The viability of the planned activities and sustainability of the network will also be considered. The CSBS IRN program is not designed to support primary research or fund existing networks or well-established collaborations.

Eligibility

Proposals should come from at least two PIs with degrees in different fields of study. At least one PI must be a social and behavioral scientist. All IRN PIs must be tenure-track faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. One PI must be designated as the PI of record for purposes of grant administration, reporting, and serving as the liaison with CSBS.

Important Dates:

> **Full Proposals Due: November 5th**
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> Funding Announcements: December 15th
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> Project Period: 18 months (January 15, 2024 – June 15, 2025)

Please submit the proposal using Webtools at https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1525337623. All documents should be in Times New Roman, 12-point minimum font, and 1/2-inch margins.

Proposal Element	Length	Description
Project Abstract	No more than 200 words	Provide a succinct and accurate description of the proposed network. The summary should be informative to others working in related fields and understandable to a scientifically literate reader. Include the project's broad, long-term objectives, specific aims, and a brief description of the topic or research focus.
Project Narrative	No more than 2-3 sentences	The narrative should communicate the primary focus and impact of the network and use plain language that would be understandable by a general audience.
Project Title Page	1 page	Include project title and a list of PIs (name, title, affiliation, email, UIN) and other project personnel (name, title, affiliation, email)
Project Description	No more than 4 pages	The network project description should include the following sections:
		a. **Topic or Research Focus**. Identify a clear theme as the focus of the activities. Researchers should spell out the theoretical and/or methodological foundations of the network's proposed activities and specify: (a) what questions will be addressed; (b) why an interdisciplinary approach is needed in addressing the questions; (c) what activities will be undertaken; (d) what will be generated by the network activities; and (e) how information about the network, and opportunities to participate will be disseminated. The proposal should also discuss the expected benefits of the network's activities in moving an interdisciplinary collaboration forward, with attention to the evolution of the interdisciplinarity of the collaboration over the funded period.
		b. **Network Participants**: In addition to identifying PIs, the proposal should detail what new group(s) will be brought together and benefit from participating in the network activities. This can include, but is not limited to, faculty, graduate students, and representatives from community organizations. Please specify (a) the different disciplines from which this network will draw participants, (b) efforts to ensure integration across disciplines, and (c) the recruitment strategy to bring diverse members of the campus community together (when applicable for the proposed activities).
		c. **Timeline and Management Plan:** The proposal should include a clearly defined timeline and management plan for accomplishing the planned activities as well as specific roles and responsibilities of the PIs. Mechanisms for assessing progress and the effectiveness of the networking activities should be part of the management plan. Projects are expected to last up to 18 months.
		d. **Sustainability**: All proposals should describe plans for sustaining the interdisciplinary work of the IRN. Describe how the IRN will be sustained beyond the funding cycle, including external funding.

Keywords	3-5 phrases or keywords	Include searchable keywords or phrases that accurately represent the proposed network theme or focus.
Budget and Budget Justification	No more than 1 page; table format preferred	Provide an itemized breakdown of all costs to be covered by the IRN grant. **Funds can be allocated** to support activities required to complete the data collection and analysis: • Workshop or meeting costs (e.g. room rental, refreshments) • Supplies and materials • Data access, data set purchase, data sharing repository • Speaker related expenses (e.g. travel, honorarium) • Costs for resources (e.g., dataset purchases, supplies and materials, and participant incentives) • Personnel costs, such as a graduate or undergraduate student hourly work, to support coordination above and beyond what CSBS provides **Funds cannot be allocated** to support: • Expenditures generally made by departments and colleges (e.g., travel to conferences, seed money for an individual project) • Tuition waivers • PI/Co-I salary • Course buyouts • Delivery of outreach programs or services • Student projects (e.g., master's thesis or dissertation)
CVs or Bio sketches of IRN PIs	No more than 2 pages	

For more information, please contact CSBS Associate Director Brenda Koester, bkoester@illinois.edu.