The development of SC&I's competitive funding program for *Team and Group based Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity (GTFR)* has been reviewed by the Research Development Committee, Chairs, and Deans as part of SC&I's overall portfolio of research and scholarship support. GTFR is SC&'s method for providing support to any group of faculty members seeking research and scholarly achievements by working together – this includes SC&I's working groups, labs, centers, and clusters. This document defines the program.

Purpose

- GTFR – Grants for Team-based Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity – is a program to facilitate the strategic development of research and scholarship at SC&I.
- The GTFR
    - o promotes bold, transformative research and scholarship with scholarly and societal impact that can attract significant external funding and that strengthens SC&I's research community within SC&I, RU, and beyond.
    - o aids teams of SC&I faculty to leverage, integrate, and advance the unique qualities of SC&I research and scholarship through collaborative projects and activities.
    - o encourages the involvement and mentorship of students in research at the graduate and undergraduate level.
    - o seeks to support activity that enriches SC&I's research culture and that advances its research infrastructure for the wide variety of research and scholarship at SC&I.
- The GTFR is a 4-year initiative (starts Spring 2023). It will be reviewed for its impact on SC&I research and scholarship.

- Alternate funding sources at SC&I for individual researchers and open access publishing, at the RU_NB's Chancellor-Provost Challenge, and at RU for individuals, collaborations, subventions, and manuscripts may better suit your goals.

Award Types

- SC&I-based teams can apply for funds for their team activity through a competitive selection process as follows:
    - Collaborative Research Award:
        - Seed funds for preliminary work (i.e., planning, preparing, conducting preliminary research) on a collaborative project for the purpose of submitting one or more proposals to obtain significant external funding from a foundation or an agency (state, federal, or international) program for transformative communication, information, and media research.
        - The team commits to submitting at least one such proposal within one year of the award end date.
        - Funding requests can be made for up to $25,000 and must be for a two-year period.
    - Major Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity Award:
        - Support funds for a team to plan and implement an innovative activity (e.g., major workshop, summer school, conference) that leads to significant, impactful scholarly outcomes and accomplishments for members of the SC&I research community and/or to SC&I-based developments that demonstrably advance the capabilities for research excellence in the SC&I research community.
        - Team commits to completing activities before the award period ends.
        - Funding requests can be made for up to $25,000 and must be for a two-year period.
    - Basic Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity Award:
        - Support funds for a team to plan and implement basic scholarship development activities (e.g., speakers, writing groups, workshops) that enable members of the SC&I research community to engage about a subject matter, methodology, or advanced methods to advance their individual and collaborative research and scholarship.
        - Team commits to completing activities before the award period ends. Funding requests can be made in two ways: as a two-year plan with a budget request of up to $14,000 or as a one-year plan with a budget request of up to $7,000.
- Awards will be made as follows for any year in which awards are made:

- o No more than two large awards will be made – that is, any combination of awards for Collaborative Research and Major Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity will not exceed two total large awards.
        - o For the Basic Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity Award, no more than one two-year award and no more than two one-year awards.
    - Amounts awarded to successful applicants may be less than requested.

Eligibility
- SC&I full-time faculty members on continuing appointments at the time of application are eligible to apply for a GTFR. The PI must be a full-time faculty member during the award period to receive the award. Applicants who do not meet these requirements, such as a full-time staff member, may have an application considered by the committee if the applicant has prior approval from the Associate Dean for Research to make an application.
- Partners outside of SC&I: The project or activity plan can include meaningful coordination or collaboration with researchers/partners across units at Rutgers, at other institutions, and within communities. It is expected that such partners will make material contributions to the project from resources available to them from their home unit, institution, or organization. This must be determined prior to applying and clearly explained in the application.
- Applicants must have fulfilled the GTFR conditions (see below) for any prior GTFR or GIFR award to receive funding.

Conditions
- Award winners are expected to be good stewards of the funds awarded.
    - o The awarded amount must be expended before the end of the award cycle.
    - o An award winner may request a no-cost extension of the award period for up to one additional year. The extension request must be justified and made in writing to the ADR no later than one month prior to the end of the award period.
    - o Award recipients may not apply for a new GTFR until/unless a final report for previously awarded GTFR is properly submitted.
- A brief final report addressing project achievements, use of awarded funds, and lessons learned is due by the end of the award cycle.
- Awarded teams will make an oral presentation of the work resulting from the award at a SC&I forum or event for the benefit of SC&I's scholarly community. The presentation should be completed before the end of the award cycle. However, before the end of the award cycle, an awarded team can request to complete the presentation during the semester following the end of the award period.
- All publications or other scholarly outcomes must acknowledge the financial support of SC&I.

- Acceptance of a SC&I GTFR implies permission to post a link to the funded proposal on the SC&I website.

Application

- The application will include a plan with a budget that explains how the planned activities will lead to the expected outcomes, as follows:
  - Collaborative Research submission includes a budget up to $25,000 with a two-year plan.
  - Major Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity submission includes a budget up to $25,000 with a two-year plan.
  - Basic Collaborative Scholarship Development Activity submission includes a budget up to $14,000 with a two-year plan or a budget up to $7,000 with a one-year plan.
- Applicants must indicate other funds the team members will put toward this proposed project (e.g., annual faculty allocation, start-up funds, ICR, other grants). This includes brief explanations of why funds that could be used, such as annual faculty allocations and start-up funds, are not being used (i.e.., committed to other projects).
- The application should also make clear the material contribution to the project to be made by non-SC&I members.
- The award cannot be used toward PI or Co-PI salaries or course buy-outs. The awarded funds cannot be used toward salaries or course buy-outs of partners outside of SC&I.
  - (Note for example that an external speaker could receive an honorarium but an external partner doing the same cannot as it is expected that such activity by the external partner is part of their material contribution to the project.)
- Application and budget template will be available on SC&I Research Portal.

Evaluation

- Fit with the GTFR initiative's purpose.
- The proposed project's intellectual merit for scholarship and its broader impacts within or across the fields of communication, information, and media.
- The proposed project leverages the talent at SC&I while contributing to the development of SC&I's scholarly footprint and impact.
- Depending on the type of award sought:
  - The proposed Scholarly Project's potential to lead to significant external funding for the team-based project.
  - The proposed Scholarship Development Activity's potential for SC&I-based developments that can demonstrably lead to significant, impactful scholarly

outcomes and accomplishments for members of the SC&I research community and/or to SC&I-based developments that demonstrably advance the capabilities for research excellence in the SC&I research community. This can include activity and infrastructure that becomes substantially or fully self-sustaining within the SC&I's framework for advancing research and scholarship.

- The likelihood that the plan will lead to the timely achievement of the project's goal(s).
- The appropriateness of the budget to the project's plan for the timely achievement of the project's goals, including:
  - Explanation of the material contributions of partners outside of SC&I to the achievement of project goals.
  - The budget indicates which, if any, proposed project expenses will be covered in whole or part by funds available to the faculty members outside of the GTFR program.
  - The justification for budget items makes clear the need for these items in achieving the project goal(s) and that the budget items are not otherwise available within SC&I or RU.

Prioritization

- Preference given to proposals that include SC&I faculty from two or more departments.
- Additional preference to relevant involvement of graduate and undergraduate student researchers for their scholarly development and to projects that that contribute to the relevant building out of research infrastructure at SC&I.
- Applicants have demonstrated good stewardship of any previously awarded funds from the GTFR or other funding initiatives at SC&I, especially in the form of strong outcomes from earlier projects.

Review

- Proposals are evaluated and ranked based on the evaluation criteria and then prioritized for receiving an award based on the prioritization criteria (see above).
- All proposals will first be reviewed and commented on by the Research Development Committee.
- The Deans & Chairs will review the applications and the RDC's comments to determine what proposal(s), if any, will receive an award and at what amount based on the evaluation and prioritization elements described above.
- Applicants for an award may not serve as a reviewer of applications.
- Applicants may be contacted by the committee for clarifications regarding the application.