Research Catalyst & Innovation (RCI) Program:
Office of Research Development

One broad goal of the OVPR Research Catalyst & Innovation (RCI) program is to award funds as a catalyst to develop the capacity for additional external funding that sustains lines of inquiry and faculty trajectories. Grantees of the RCI funding program are required to undertake Research Development (RD) activities and utilize RD services toward finding external funding opportunities, generating, refining or developing ideas, creating strategic plans and/or strengthening teams, projects or proposals.

What do we mean by Research Development?

Simply, Research Development is any kind of service, resource, workshop, program or tool that helps faculty increase competitiveness for extramural funding or achieve long-term research and scholarship goals and sustain these efforts. These can include facilitations for idea development or collaboration planning, workshops for faculty development (skill-building) and consultations to connect with funding opportunities or resources. Clearly articulating project goals and an appropriate timeline assists in selecting and shaping which RD processes are appropriate.

How should I use Research Development in support of my RCI project?

A range of types of activities constitute Research Development. Selecting the most effective pathways will depend on the project type, team composition, the maturity of the research project, and the forms of external support that align with the nature of the work.

How do I request Research Development services?

RCI awardees are welcome to use RD services that are available within units (e.g., Engineering, Medical School, LSA, TCAUP, Education, Information and others have staff available in-house). RD services are also available from the following campus wide units:

OVPR Research Development

Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR)

Foundation Relations

Michigan Medicine Corporate & Foundation Relations

Institute for Research on Women & Gender

U-M Library

To request Research Development Proposal Services, fill out this short form.

If you're not sure how or where to start, contact the Research Development and Proposal Services team.

RESEARCH

Theme Grants

RD staff will reach out to RCI awardees of Theme Grants who can select from a variety of RD services (including the ones listed on the right).
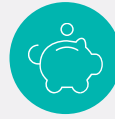
Block Grant Recipients

If you received RCI funding administered by your unit's Research Associate Dean (RAD), work with your RAD. RADs can help frame projects, provide feedback and/or advise additional RD pathways with support and input from OVPR RD team, as appropriate. RADs will detail RD support provided to project PIs in their annual RCI reports. RADs may consider using some of the Block Grant funds to bring in external speakers or experts to consult with faculty on research and/or funding strategies.

RAD Catalyst Grants

RADs will document the outcomes of RD efforts and articulate impact(s) in final reporting.

RD SERVICES

Funding Consultations

Talk to RD staff about your research area and goals. We can provide advice on funders and funding mechanisms, show you how to find funding, and help you plan strategically around what grants you should pursue at what stage of your career/project.

Ideation and planning sessions

RD staff can work with teams of researchers to brainstorm and develop ideas, create a strategic plan for pursuing large grants, and work collaboratively to develop a proposal. We will tailor sessions for your team's needs.

Proposal development & editing

RD staff are able to support proposals with project management or crafting supporting documents (e.g., letters of support). Additionally, RD staff can review for grantsmanship, editing for grammar, style, organization, clarity and consistency.

Graphics support

Polished graphics can clarify complex information or help convey vision or organization of a program/project.

Red team reviews

RD staff can arrange for internal or external peer review of proposals. Getting comprehensive feedback in advance of submission will help identify strengths and weaknesses to target for revision to proposals stronger.

Studio/project critique or peer review

RD staff can arrange critical review of proposals, projects or performances to help identify strengths and weaknesses before work is presented to external reviewers/audiences.

Workshops

Invite RD staff to present sessions on grant writing, dissemination and project expansion. Workshops can be tailored to the needs of different units including those that are less familiar with seeking external funding.

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