

National Science Foundation Accelerating Research Translation (NSF ART) Seed Translational Research Projects (STRPs) University of Delaware

Call for Proposals: 2026 NSF ART STRPs

Applications are solicited for Seed Translational Research Projects that will be funded through National Science Foundation Accelerating Research Translation (NSF ART) Award 2331440. STRPs are for a 6-month to 1-year period with a budget of ~\$25,000 to ~\$75,000 (direct costs) (see Budget section for more information). Research teams must include a University of Delaware (UD) faculty member, associate scientist, or postdoctoral researcher as the Principal Investigator (PI) (note that postdoctoral researchers must have approval from the research office to serve as PI). STRPs must exhibit potential for rapid technology transfer/commercialization and societal or market impact. This funding mechanism will not accept applications that focus on topics related to health. Projects focused on either research translation or social innovation will be considered.

Overview

Key Dates & Deadlines

All dates are approximate, except the preliminary application deadline

Preliminary application deadline: February 6, 2026

Invitations for full applications: ~March 6, 2026

Full Application deadline: ~April 17, 2026

Potential awardees notified: ~July 2026

Budget preparation: ~August 2026

Anticipated start date: ~September 1, 2026

Focus Areas

STRPs must focus on non-health related topics and may involve traditional research translation/commercialization or social innovation. Research projects may be faculty initiated or industry sponsored. Industrial partners are expected to provide funds equal to or greater than the amount of funding requested from NSF ART STRP by the academic PI. Social innovations are intended to develop sustainable and creative solutions to societal and/or environmental problems. For example, projects may focus on education & youth development, environment & sustainability, economic inclusion, housing & urban innovation, tech/AI-for-good, food security & agriculture, or other topics. Projects in the commercialization track should exhibit a high technology readiness level and be focused on product development or completing key steps towards market entry. All projects must have strong potential to yield tangible outcomes and societal or market impact on a short (e.g., <2 year) time horizon. Such outcomes may include new intellectual property or licenses, start-up company formation, prototype creation, or new products, tools, services, processes, or policies that yield measurable improvements compared to current solutions.

Eligibility

The PI must be a UD faculty member, associate scientist, or postdoctoral researcher (who has been approved to serve as PI by the research office). Each applicant may serve as PI of only one proposal. PIs may not hold more than 1 NSF ART STRP or Institute for Engineering Driven Health pilot grant at a time.

Budget

PIs should propose a budget between \$25,000 and \$75,000 (direct costs) that aligns with the scope of work and timeline. Projects involving an industrial partner should include at least a 1:1 match. Funds may be used to purchase supplies, support graduate student or postdoctoral trainees (including stipend, tuition, or participation in educational opportunities such as InDE or

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translational workshops), or support PI effort, but certain budget subcategories (participant support, equipment, computers, sub-contracts) are not allowed as these were not included in the overarching NSF ART budget.

Questions regarding budget may be directed to edh-info@udel.edu.

Preliminary Application Instructions

Preliminary applications must be submitted as a single pdf by 11:59PM on the deadline to edh-info@udel.edu. Late applications will not be considered. Top-ranked applicants will be notified and asked for a more detailed proposal due approximately 1-month after the notification date.

Preliminary applications consist of:

- 1) Cover page
 - a. Project title
 - b. PI name
 - c. PI title/department affiliation
 - d. PI contact email
 - e. Collaborators & affiliations (if any)
 - f. List of 3-5 potential reviewers to include with rationale (e.g., Dr. A has expertise in X) (note: suggested reviewers may be from within or outside UD; reviewers not affiliated with UD will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement)
 - g. List of any reviewers to exclude (e.g., exclude Dr. B due to conflict of interest regarding described intellectual property)
- 2) One-page quad chart (see template)
- 3) One-page timeline, budget, and budget justification
 - a. List the proposed timeline, budget subcategories and associated direct costs. Provide a brief justification for each budget item.
- 4) NIH- or NSF-formatted biosketch for the PI

Full Application Instructions

Full proposals from invited applicants must be submitted as a single PDF by 11:59PM on the due date to edh-info@udel.edu. Late applications will not be considered. Format is 0.5-inch margins, Arial 11 font, single-spaced. The following components should be included:

- 1) Cover page
 - a. Proposal Title
 - b. PI Name, Title, Department, and Email
 - c. Co-PIs and collaborators (if any) (names, affiliations)
 - d. Requested funds (annual direct costs)
 - e. Vertebrate animals (yes/no)
 - f. Human subjects (yes/no)
 - g. List of 3-5 potential reviewers to include with rationale (e.g., Dr. A has expertise in X) (note: suggested reviewers may be from within or outside UD; reviewers not affiliated with UD will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement)
 - h. List of any reviewers to exclude (e.g., exclude Dr. B due to conflict of interest regarding described intellectual property)
- 2) Intellectual Property Information

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- a. In 1-2 paragraphs, list all intellectual property assets (i.e., patent filings and invention disclosures) pertaining to the work proposed. Summarize the competitive landscape (i.e., list the advantages of your solution relative to existing solutions).
- 3) Project Summary/Abstract (30 lines or less)
 - a. Problem addressed
 - b. Proposed solution & technical approach
 - c. Potential for market, societal, and/or environmental impact
- 4) Project Description (4-5 pages maximum, divided into the following sections)
 - a. Significance
 - b. Innovation
 - c. Approach
 - d. Timeline and Milestones (explain the timeline on which specific project goals are expected to be achieved; these milestones will be used to evaluate project progress)
 - e. Opportunities for future development/translation (explain the path to commercial use or societal/environmental impact—e.g., licensing opportunities, start-up company, new policies or programs, etc.)
- 5) One page budget & budget justification
 - a. Proposed timeline
 - b. List of budget subcategories and associated direct costs
 - c. Justification for each budget line-item
- 6) References Cited
- 7) PI Biosketch—NIH or NSF format
- 8) Key Personnel Biosketch(es)—NIH or NSF format
- 9) Human Subjects documentation (if applicable)
 - a. Provide documentation of IRB approval and/or describe the timeline for gaining approval. Projects that require IRB approval cannot begin until such approval is obtained and communicated to NSF.
- 10) Vertebrate Animals documentation (if applicable)
 - a. Provide certification of IACUC approval and/or describe the timeline for gaining approval. Projects that require IACUC approval cannot begin until such approval is obtained and communicated to NSF.

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by a review panel that includes both scientific and business experts. Proposals will be given scores from 1 (high merit) to 9 (low merit) based on the following criteria:

- 1) Significance
- 2) Innovation
- 3) Approach
- 4) Translational Potential

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- 5) Investigators
- 6) Overall Impact

Expectations

Awardees are required to:

- Attend NSF ART events and meetings and present research results at annual symposia/meetings
- Inform NSF ART leadership of any translational successes (e.g., new IP, major results, etc.)
- Coordinate with NSF ART leadership before disseminating any press releases related to the research
- If requested by NSF ART leadership, serve as an Innovation Ambassador (list of responsibilities available by request)
- Meet with members of the NSF ART leadership team regularly to discuss progress toward project milestones. Unsatisfactory progress may warrant early closure of an award.
- Meet with technology transfer associates from the Office of Economic Innovation and Partnerships to discuss translational goals and approaches
- Work with the NSF ART evaluation team to create a project Impact Report
- The PI or a member of their team (e.g., postdoctoral researcher or graduate student) should participate in innovation/entrepreneurship training either before receipt of the award or during the award term (e.g., NSF I-Corp, Novus, ART 101, InDE, or similar)
- Submit a final report at the end of the grant term and provide updates on new project outcomes up to 3 years after project completion

Funding Acknowledgement

Awardees should use the following or similar attribution: “This work was funded by the National Science Foundation Accelerating Research Translation (NSF ART) Program through award number 2331440.”

Contact

Questions may be directed to edh-info@udel.edu.