

2025 Research Innovation Fund (RIF) Request for Faculty Proposals

Revised – November 11, 2024

Cornell University, with outstanding faculty, staff, and students in agriculture and life sciences, social science and business, computing and information science, engineering, and veterinary medicine are exceptionally well positioned to advance the concepts and tools of digital agriculture. **To foster the collaborations needed for such endeavors, and to catalyze the development of tools for New York and regions beyond, the Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture (CIDA) seeks original proposals (not currently funded by any source) under its Research Innovation Fund (RIF) for projects that will advance digital agriculture.** When awarded, these seed and planning grants are intended to enable the PIs to compete for external sources of funding.

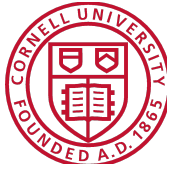
Track 1: Planning Grants – up to \$15,000 (1 year)

CIDA Planning Grants provide leverage for innovative research that needs additional support to take the next step forward. These grants are meant to support the development of center-scale high-risk/high-payoff convergent digital agriculture research with large societal impact. Funds can be used for, but are not limited to, initial staffing needs, writing and application support, and networking. At the planning grant termination, it is expected that PIs will submit a proposal for a large-scale grant.

Track 2: Seed Grant – up to \$30,000 (1 year)

Seed grants, while also intended to enable developing projects to compete for external funding sources, are meant for development of preliminary data and research 'seeds' or ideas to develop into fully realized projects. Research can be applied or basic within the field of digital agriculture. At the seed grant termination, it is expected that PIs will pursue additional, external sources of funding to continue their research.

*Questions/comments: please contact Gabriela Cestero, CIDA Managing Director
(gc423@cornell.edu)*



Project Requirements:

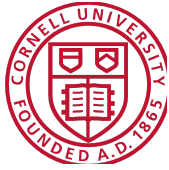
- Projects should represent new research streams for the project team AND new collaborations (namely, teams not previously funded by CIDA RIF, though members of a team may have been funded on different teams in the past) in digital agriculture and be consistent with [CIDA's mission](#).
- Projects supported by CIDA's RIF must involve at least 2 faculty members from different colleges (see below for eligibility). Single-PI proposals are not allowed.
- Project budgets up to \$15,000/year for planning grants and \$30,000/year for seed grants and up to 1 year per award.
 - Proposal budgets may include support for graduate students, postdocs, or research staff.
 - RIF proposals are charged NO INDIRECT COSTS (IDC), and cost-sharing is not required.

Faculty PI Eligibility:

- PIs and co-PIs from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Engineering, the Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Cornell Tech are eligible to receive funding. Additional non-budgeted collaborators from other CU colleges or external partners are encouraged to participate.
- People in the following titles are eligible to serve as budgeted PIs and co-PIs: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Professor of Practice,* Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, Assistant Research Professor, Assistant Clinical Professor,* (Principal) Research Scientist, and Sr. Research Associate.
- Applicants may serve as PI on **one** application only. Applicants serving as PI on one application may serve as co-PI on one additional application. Alternatively, applicants may serve as co-PI on a maximum of two proposals.
- PIs cannot lead multiple active CIDA RIF grants simultaneously. However, they may serve as co-PI of one new proposal. Additionally, existing co-PIs may serve as PI for a new proposal.

**Assistant Clinical Professors and Professors of Practice are required to submit a letter of permission from their respective college dean or department chair with their application.*

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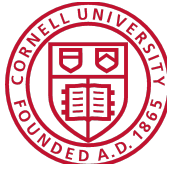


Track 1: Planning Grants - up to \$15,000 (1 year)

Submission Requirements:

- 1) Each proposal submission must answer a set of questions and be formatted in accordance with the questions to permit ease of review. [Download Questions](#)
- 2) Specifically, lead PIs will upload one (1) PDF file with the following requirements:
 - a) Answers to the Preliminary Information section (Questions 1 – 13) should appear first. Please include a copy of your COI and Current and Pending Support (C&P). There is no page limit for this section, but brevity is appreciated.
 - b) Application content (Questions 14 – 18) should appear second and can be no longer than two (2) pages. Figures and tables are allowed as long as they fit within the 2-page limit.
 - c) The third section should be Additional Resources, Budget, and References (Questions 19 – 21), which can be no longer than two (2) pages.
 - d) After the two sections described above, each PI and co-PI should submit a CV with a three (3) page maximum.
 - e) Proposal Margin and Spacing Requirements:
 - i) Use one of the following typefaces:
 - (1) Arial, Courier New, or Palatino Linotype at a font size of 10 points or larger;
 - (2) Times New Roman at a font size of 11 points or larger; or
 - (3) Computer Modern family of fonts at a font size of 11 points or larger.
 - ii) A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figures, table, or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters. However, text must still be readable.
 - iii) No more than six lines of text within a vertical space of one inch.
 - iv) Margins, in all directions, must be at least an inch.
 - v) While line spacing (single-spaced, double-spaced, etc.) is at the discretion of the proposer, established page limits must be followed.
 - f) Package the two sections and the CVs into one PDF file and submit it as your proposal through the portal. All information **MUST** be included in this single PDF file or your proposal will not be reviewed. *Emailed proposals, figures and/or other content will not be accepted.*

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Track 1: Planning Grants - up to \$15,000 (1 year)

How to Upload to Portal:

- [Portal Link – CIDA RIF 2025](#)
 1. Create a new account.
 2. Sign into the portal. Under Submissions, click “New submission” and fill in the appropriate fields.

Submission Deadline:

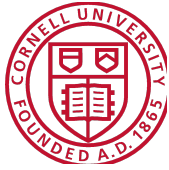
Applications for faculty-led research are due **Wednesday, December 18th, 2024 @ midnight** –

Awards announced at the end of January; funding distributed to PI by February 1st, with a start date of February 1st.

Review Criteria:

[Review Criteria for Faculty-Led Planning Grant Proposal \(Track 1\)](#)

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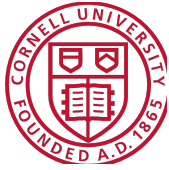


Track 2: Seed Grant – up to \$30,000 (1 year)

Submission Requirements:

- 1) Each proposal submission must answer a set of questions and be formatted in accordance with the questions to permit ease of review. [Download Questions](#)
- 2) Specifically, lead PIs will upload one (1) PDF file with the following requirements:
 - a) Answers to the Preliminary Information section (Questions 1 – 13) should appear first. Please include a copy of your COI and Current and Pending Support (C&P). There is no page limit for this section, but brevity is appreciated.
 - b) Application content (Questions 14 – 21) should appear second and can be no longer than three (3) pages. Figures and tables are allowed as long as they fit within the 3-page limit.
 - c) The third section should be Additional Resources, Budget, and References (Questions 22 – 24), which can be no longer than two (2) pages.
 - d) After the three sections described above, each PI and co-PI should submit a CV with a three (3) page maximum.
 - e) Proposal Margin and Spacing Requirements:
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Submission Deadline:

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Review Criteria:

[Review Criteria for Faculty-Led Seed Grant Proposal \(Track 2\)](#)

Requirements for Awardees:

All RIF awardees are required to:

- Submit a final report/plan for future funding proposal/future grant proposal.
- Make an oral presentation summarizing your progress or findings at the annual CIDA Workshop or other CIDA-sponsored events.
- Acknowledge CIDA in all reports, posters, slides, and media posts (e.g. websites, videos, social media) pertaining to the project, including an explicit acknowledgement of CIDA funding in journal publications, with wording such as “This work benefited from the support of the Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture (CIDA).”
- In general, collaborate with CIDA, which is critical for a faculty-driven initiative.

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