Frequently asked questions and answers to comments to the URI Plastic Seed Grant Program

- My question is about "local, state, and regional levels." Is that intended to exclude the international level? I'd like to know whether it's an option.
  - The purpose of these seeds is to strengthen local and regional collaboration. International projects are allowed by the funds if URI faculty are exploring local to global questions/solutions and include local/regional stakeholders.

- "URI Plastics Seed Grant program funds cannot be used to support projects in fulfillment of advanced degrees..." but we say that work of graduate students can count as part of the educational component required for each proposal. These two points appear contradictory and can lead to confusion. What does exactly mean that the program cannot be used to support projects in fulfillment of advanced degrees?
  - The meaning of "cannot be used to support projects in fulfillment of advanced degrees" is that you cannot use the funds to support an advanced degree as an outcome of the project. However, you are allowed to hire a graduate student to carry out the research on the proposed project.

- I have no major comments beyond a suggestion that a collaboration forming workshop might be an idea to incorporate in the call, i.e., lightning talks etc.[...] also could avoid the reinvention of the wheel in terms of techniques and multi-year investment in research labs.
  - The workshop can be part of a research translation activity as long as the workshop communicates research performed at URI or you are engaging a new collaborator to continue working on a project based on information generated at URI. Workshops provide awareness and input to research and can be very important in cultivating relationships and collecting data to further research and solutions.

- I just had one minor comment - should you include some text regarding whether preliminary data is encouraged or required in these applications?
  - The spirit of the seed program is not to support fundamental research; the idea is to communicate/apply/transfer research/information generated at URI with stakeholders at the local or regional level. However, the seed funds can be used to generate data through or with stakeholders or generate a space to share URI data with stakeholders to have an impact.

- Maybe if you propose $25k-$30k or $35k, you can sponsor another project. Smaller projects are easier to manage within the 1-year time frame.
  - The solicitation specifies a range of funding. Any proposal within the range listed in the solicitation will be considered for funding.

- I appreciate that we are trying to maximize opportunities from a limited pot of money, and I can also see benefit to increasing the upper limit to around $50-60k which might attract more applications towards the call. Staffing is often the most critical aspect of delivering grants and can be expensive, especially with applied or lab processing work which can require significant time.
    - The purpose of this program is to provide seed funding to translate research and develop new collaborations between URI researchers and stakeholders. The proposed funding range seeks to allow disciplines with diverse projects to apply to the program.