



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL LAND-GRANT CAMPUS
RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM
REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Institute

Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants (SIMP)

Institute Contact

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Deadline for Receiving Completed Application Packet

Applications must be received by the State Agency Contact no later than the close of business (5:00p.m.) on August 31, 2019.

Definitions

Term	Definition
SIMP	Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants
Application	A response to an RFA
Applicant	An individual who responds to an RFA
RFA	A request for applications
SUALGC	Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus
SUAREC	Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Shall, Must, or Will	Denotes mandatory language; a requirement that must be met without alteration
Should, Can, or May	Denotes desirable, non-mandatory language

Mission Statement

To develop and contribute to the development of plant-derived pharmaceuticals while promoting the use of traditional medicine and raising awareness of native and exotic plants which possess medicinal properties. SIMP also seeks to strengthen research, teaching and outreach by providing practical learning opportunities to students and stakeholders.

Purpose

The Research Grants program is one of many new initiatives designed to enhance research, teaching and outreach activities at the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus.

Background Information

The Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants (SIMP) was established to be recognized world-wide as a Center of Excellence which serves as an incubator for natural and medicinal products. This Center will be the informational support portal that contributes to improving human health, serving the citizens of Louisiana and the nation. The institute will be characterized by an ongoing process of capacity building with equal emphasis on natural product development and utilization to address the major health issues that faces society today.

This new program will support high-impact ideas that lend themselves to non-renewable funding and may lay the foundation for new areas of investigation. Applicants may propose to address a specific research question or to create a unique infrastructure/resource designed to accelerate scientific progress in the future. The initiative is designed to provide investigators with the opportunity to engage in new avenues of research with a high likelihood of significant impact on growth and investments in horticultural or medicinal plant research and development. The program will be initiated in fiscal year 2019-2020. Therefore, applications are invited in all areas of research incorporating outreach and teaching.

Priorities

The intent of the SIMP's Research Program is to support research proposals that are based on strong science and use proper protocols, and assist in advancing the mission of the Southern University's Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Priority will be given to research projects that advance as many of the following elements as possible:

- Are likely to lead and increase competitiveness for national funding by providing seed funding for gathering preliminary data
- Support a new researcher (less than five years post-doctoral)
- Support a new line of research at SUAREC
- Incorporates interdisciplinary research

The following are the program's areas of focus:

- 1) Medicinal Plants
- 2) Plant Health, Production and Propagation,
- 3) Specialty Crops, and
- 4) Biotechnology

Types of Projects

The Land-Grant's Office of Research will award faculty and staff grant projects which can be a continuation of ongoing or previously completed research project. However, the overall goal is to position ourselves to address new and emerging issues. All projects must be stakeholder driven and include an extension and teaching component.

Funding Cycle

Project activities are expected to be completed ***within*** three years.

Content of Applications Submitted for Funding

Cover Page --- (Title of Project; Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators' Names and Contact Information – Use attached SUALGC Proposal Routing Form – Revised 2018).

Project Abstract

Project Narrative --- (Limited to a maximum of five pages).

(Shall include):

- i. Justification/Problem Statement, Rationale and Significance
- ii. Project Objective(s)
- iii. Literature Review
- iv. Approach and Methods
- v. Expected Outcomes/ Impact
- vi. Project Evaluation Methods
- vii. Project Timetable with Measurable Milestones
- viii. Literature Cited

Itemized Budget

Description of Expenses	Funds Requested
Total	

Non-eligible expense items: Faculty and staff salary (including summer pay); graduate students stipends or assistantships (unless it is part of a graduate student proposal)

Budget Narrative and Justification

All expenses described in this Budget Narrative must be associated with expenses that will be covered by the Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus Grants Program.

Investigator(s) Summary Vita

Limit to (2) pages for each investigator.

Proposal Review Criteria

The Office of Research ***will seek to fund the most worthy projects with the financial resources allocated to the grant initiative.*** Submitted proposals will be reviewed by ***a committee of three and may include off-campus evaluators to ensure impartiality and fairness*** to all applicants. Proposals submitted will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Is the problem or issue well delineated in the justification/ problem statement section of the proposal?
- Are the Goals/Objectives specific and congruent with the justification/problem defined?
- Does the proposed project contribute to a broader research or outreach program?
- Is the proposed approach feasible and relevant in the context of the problem defined? Will the approach be conducive to positive outcomes/ results in the timeframe of the proposed project cycle?
- Is the proposed budget adequate and consistent with proposed project activities?
- Is the continuation plan clearly explained in the proposal? Will the expected outcome/results of the seed grant lead to future funding of expanded research and/or outreach projects by outside agencies or private sector firms?
- Is the evaluation plan feasible?

Proposal Format

Use 8 1/2" x 11" letter size

Margins are not less than 1" on all sides

All pages must be paginated and include the study title

The font is Times New Roman and text font size is not less than 12 pt.

Award Information

Announcement of the selected projects to be funded will be made in writing by email to all applicants at completion of reviewing process.

Questions

All requests for additional information and/or questions regarding this RFA should be directed to Janana Snowden at the email address provided on page 1 and must be submitted in writing.

SIMP staff will be available to provide information on the panel review process and requirements, and make suggestions to strengthen proposals for review; however, to ensure that all applications receive equal treatment, SIMP staff cannot provide applicant preparation services.