

# ESC Member Seed Funds Request



**Goal:** ESC member funds provide support for efforts that will directly lead to future funding (i.e., the submission of proposals for external, overhead-generating grants). As such, appropriate uses of these funds include, collection of pilot data, time buyout, travel, or equipment purchases that will leverage a specific proposal effort or allow PIs to prepare large, multi-investigator proposals.

## **Eligibility:**

- Must be a current member of ESC per current GLRC membership policy.
- Must not have received an ESC seed award as the PI within the past year.

**Funding amounts:** We anticipate funding 3 or more awards of up to \$15,000 with a one year duration.

**How to apply:** Submit a proposal as described below to [glrcadmin-l@mtu.edu](mailto:glrcadmin-l@mtu.edu) by 11:59 PM EST/EDT on **Friday March 13, 2026**.

**Proposal Instructions:** The proposal should include the following components submitted as a PDF, no more than 2 pages long (excluding references):

- Project title
- Applicant name
- List of additional ESC members involved (if applicable)
- Budget amount requested from ESC.
- A description of your project and work to be done within the one-year award timeline.
- Provide a basic budget breakdown with a short justification. The budget is not subject to Indirect Costs. Cost sharing is not required, but list other contributors and amount committed if applicable.
- A description of how the results of the seed grant will be used to secure additional externally sponsored research, including the names of agencies and funding programs and a timeline for proposal development.
- Brief explanation of why these funds are important at this stage of your career/project.
- If you received prior funds from ESC, explain how this led to external funding or at least a submitted proposal.
- References, if applicable (does not count toward the page limit).

**Merit Criteria:** Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by based on the following criteria:

- Proposal demonstrates sound scientific merit
- Proposal budget is clear and realistic based on the proposed work to be performed

- Proposal demonstrates a clear connection to future funding opportunities
- Previously funded seed awards have led to submitted proposals.

**Terms and Conditions:** Upon funding notification, Awardees will be required to submit a formal budget using the Sponsored Programs Budget Preparation Worksheet. A two-page final report is due within 30 days of the conclusion of the award period. The report should summarize the research findings and outline next steps and plans for subsequent proposal submissions to externally funded programs. The final report must include an accounting of how the award funding was used. Any unexpended funds will be returned to the ESC. Awardees must be an affiliated member of the ESC and are expected to select ESC/GLRC as the center/institute to any proposals and awards generated using the data developed with the seed funding.