Pitt Momentum Funds
FY25 Program Guidelines

The University of Pittsburgh's Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research (OSVCR) and the Office of the Provost are proud to announce the sixth annual Pitt Momentum Funds awards. The awards fund exceptional research and scholarship from faculty in all fields and disciplines across the University of Pittsburgh.

OVERVIEW

The **Pitt Momentum Funds (PMF)** supports high-quality research, scholarship and creative endeavors across five different tracks:

1. **Arts & Humanities Microgrants** support new projects or the final stages of existing projects where a smaller grant with fast decision-making could be transformative. *Awards are made biannually for $3,000 for 1 year.*
2. **Priming Awards** support significant and innovative scholarship by individual or groups of faculty at all ranks at Pitt. Early career faculty and applicants in fields where external funding is considered limited are encouraged to apply. Priming grants comprise the following focus areas. *Awards are made up to $25,000 for 1 year.*
   - Creative Arts, Performing Arts & Humanities
   - Engineering, Technology, Natural Sciences & Mathematical Sciences
   - Health & Life Sciences
   - Social Sciences, which includes Business, Policy, Law, Education, Informatics & Social Work
3. **Teaming Awards** support the formation of new multi-disciplinary collaborations that can pursue large-scale external funding. Example activities may include organizing strategic planning workshops, creating a working paper series, traveling to meet with potential funders' program managers, or inviting potential collaborators for campus visits. Teams must include faculty from at least three schools as described below. *Awards are made up to $60,000 for 1 year.*[1]
4. **Scaling Awards** support multi-disciplinary teams undertaking project planning and proof-of-principle work to competitively pursue large-scale extramural funding. Teams must include faculty from at least three schools as described below. *Awards are made up to $400,000 for 2 years.*[2]

All eligible faculty are encouraged to propose new, innovative ideas to contribute insight, understanding, or solutions to challenges. Investigators with projects exploring themes of the Year of Discourse and Dialogue are welcome to apply and voluntarily note that alignment.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be full-time faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh. Eligible appointment stream faculty must have research as their core responsibility.

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[1] *For scholarly communities where $60K is considered a large award, a Teaming Grant may propose a 2-year project timeline.*

[2] *There is no requirement for awardees of Teaming Grants to subsequently apply for Scaling Grants and, similarly, there is no requirement for awardees of Scaling Grants to have previously won Teaming Grants.*

- Applicants *may not* be undergraduate, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, or visiting (non-permanent) faculty members. These individuals may participate in PMF projects; however, they are **not** to be listed as co-Investigators.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

General

- PMF awards *cannot* be used to support or supplement salaries of participating faculty.

- PMF are a research development program, and therefore, proposals to organize a conference *will not* be considered.

- PMF awards *are not* intended to be as bridge funding for existing projects or for projects with sufficient preliminary results in hand to pursue external funding (e.g., NSF, NEH).

- Substantially similar teams of investigators *cannot* apply in subsequent funding cycles.

- Awardees from the immediate previous funding cycle *may not* apply to the same grant-type they were awarded funds for previously (e.g., Teaming grant awardees from FY24 cannot apply for a Teaming grant in FY25). This applies to **all** PMF award types.

Priming grants

- Faculty from outside the University of Pittsburgh *are not* eligible to participate in Priming grants.

- Faculty from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine *are not eligible* to apply for Priming grants as they are analogous to the Competitive Medical Research Fund (CMRF) grants from the Office of Research, Health Sciences. School of Medicine faculty are eligible to apply for Teaming Grants and Scaling Grants.

- Priming grants *cannot* be used for travel to meetings or conferences. Travel for research purposes, such as visits to archives, is permitted. Budgeting for computer equipment is not given priority.

Teaming and Scaling grants

- Faculty can join only one Teaming or Scaling grant proposal submission at a time (either as a PI or co-PI).

- Teaming and Scaling grants *must* include faculty from at least three schools.

  o The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences (DSAS) divisions of the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences will each be considered as separate "schools" for the purpose of this eligibility test.

  o A team *may not* be comprised of faculty exclusively from DSAS.

  o A team *may not* be comprised of faculty exclusively from Health Sciences.

  o Up to one collaborator from an HBCU, non-R1 minority-serving institution (MSI), government agency, or local 501(c)(3) organization *may be* credited as a co-investigator for the purpose of this eligibility test if their organization has the capacity to join Pitt in large-scale, follow-on funding proposals. In the case of co-investigators at community-based non-profits, modest stipends to enable participation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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PMF TIMELINE

All items are to be submitted by 12:00 PM Eastern Time

August 2024	PMF 2025 Fall Awards Announced
September 3 & 4, 2024	Virtual Information Sessions with Pitt's OSVCR and Office of the Provost
September 27, 2024, **by 12pm**	Deadline to submit **required** Expression of Intent (EOI) for Priming, Teaming & Scaling Awards in InfoReady
October 21, 2024, **by 12pm**	Deadline to submit applications for Arts & Humanities Fall Microgrants
November 2024	PMF Arts & Humanities Fall Microgrants awardees announced
November 1, 2024, **by 12pm**	Deadline to submit applications for Priming, Teaming & Scaling Awards
January 2025	Pitch sessions for Scaling Awards
January 2025	Pitch sessions for Teaming Awards
February 2025	PMF Priming, Teaming & Scaling awardees announced
Mid-February 2025	PMF 2025 Spring Awards Announced
March 28, 2025, **by 12pm**	Deadline to submit applications for Spring Microgrants
April 2025	Microgrant awardees announced

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Application materials are available at the [Pitt Research website](#) with specific guidelines listed for each of the award mechanisms. Applicants must use their assigned MyPitt username and password to login to InfoReady to submit the application materials. One team member is responsible for submitting the application as the online form is not a shared workspace. ***All application materials are due by 12:00 PM Eastern Time on their respective date.***

EVALUATION CRITERIA

PMF proposals are evaluated by faculty peers from the University of Pittsburgh. The grant types are reviewed against a common set of high-level criteria (significance of the project and intended outcomes, clarity of the concept, feasibility, and follow-on funding), but the relative weightings of those criteria vary according to the intended purpose of each grant type. For example, the specificity and credibility of follow-on funding targets for Scaling proposals are weighted more than for Priming proposals.

In general, each proposal is evaluated for its expected scholarly outcomes, their potential for impact, the clarity of project goals, feasibility, how well it is written, the support given by deans and chairs for the proposals, and the credibility of plans to leverage the PMF award in pursuit of external follow-on funding.

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Please refer to the individual PMF Awards Guidelines to see descriptions of the rubrics and the evaluation criteria for each award.

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND AWARD PROCEDURES

Proposals must be the original work of the proposing team. All grants will be peer reviewed by members of the Pitt research community. Teams with competitive proposals for the Teaming and Scaling awards will be invited to give a 15-minute pitch (10-minute presentation, 5-minute Q&A) to their respective selection committees.

The Senior Vice Chancellor for Research will make the final funding decisions for all microgrants. The Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Research will jointly make the final funding decisions for Priming, Teaming and Scaling awards.

Funds for Priming, Teaming, and Scaling awards will be made available in the spring of 2025. Funding for Priming and Teaming awards should be used by June 2026; funds for Scaling awards should be used by June 2027. Funds for the fall and spring Microgrant awards will be made available once awardees are identified, and funding will remain available for a year post-award. Funds for the Regional Catalyst Microgrant awards will be made available once awardees are identified, and funding will remain available for two-years year post-award.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- ***Progress reports.*** Awardees are required to submit six-month progress from the date their funds are made available (e.g., Priming and Teaming awardees must submit at six-months and one-year; Scaling awardees must submit at six-months, one-year, eighteen months and two-years). The progress reports should identify any unanticipated barriers to progress or modifications to the original proposal (e.g., scope, schedule, or follow-on funding targets). Scaling projects will be reviewed at the conclusion of the first year of funding for satisfactory progress against milestones; projects not demonstrating adequate progress will be required to propose remedies before the second year of funding is released.

- ***Participate in the Internal Funding Showcase.*** All awardees must participate in the 2025 Pitt Research Internal Funding Showcase (held in the fall). Awardees will present informational posters of their projects at the symposium.

- ***Outcome reporting.*** Awardees must report on all follow-on funding applications, awards and scholarly outputs attributable to their PMF award for two years after their award ends. Updates should be submitted to PMF-info@pitt.edu.

- ***Communication.*** Project leads must communicate any challenges that may impact their project's successful completion within its proposed timeline. Lead investigators who believe they have an extenuating circumstance that merits a no-cost extension should email their request to PMF-info@pitt.edu.

- ***Serve as a reviewer.*** All awardees (primary investigators and co-investigators) for all grant types must serve as reviewers in subsequent cycles of PMFs.