

SEED Grant Request for Applications

Food Security Research Center (FSRC), Prairie View A&M University



RFA and Application Packet

Key details

- Program: FSRC SEED Grant
- Award amount: Up to \$25,000 per project (one-year budget, June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027)
- Submission deadline: April 15, 2026 at 5:00 PM CST
- Submission email: foodsecurity@pvamu.edu

Food Security Research Center at Prairie View A&M University - SEED Grant Request for Applications

The Food Security Research Center (FSRC), housed in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) at PVAMU, is requesting applications for its SEED Grant program. The goal of this program is to provide funding to support and facilitate preliminary research and scholarly collaboration within the area of food security from farm to consumer. This initiative will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to fund research that positions recipients to secure external funding to advance the Center's mission. Each project proposal should develop pilot projects that generate preliminary data to serve as the basis for submitting larger proposals to external funding agencies and result in at least one peer-reviewed publication.

Recipients will be expected to become an active member of the FSRC and attend and contribute to monthly meetings and seminars. Researchers from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility:

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or Extension specialist within the Texas A&M University System.

We anticipate awarding 6-7 awards of up to \$25,000 for a one-year budget (June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2027). Allowable costs include up to 1 month's summer salary, graduate and undergraduate student salary (no tuition), supplies, publication charges, and reasonable travel.

Proposals must support the following strategic food security research themes, addressing at least one of the following priority areas:

- **Precision nutrition, food quality, and nutrition security outcomes**
- **Soil health, water-use efficiency, and climate-smart productivity for affordable food**
- **Invasive species and disease threats as food security risks**
- **New uses for agricultural products that strengthen food system stability**
- **Food security policy research and evaluation**
- **Food waste and loss at all stages of the food system, including individuals and households**
- **Extension programming research, development, and evaluation to address food and nutrition security**
- **Workforce Development for the agriculture industry**

All proposals must be submitted as a single PDF (see attached application instructions) on or before **April 15, 2026 (5 PM CST)**, to **foodsecurity@pvamu.edu** for consideration. Awards are expected to be announced at the end May 2026. Applicants are expected to submit a final report and presentation by September 2027. The investigator is expected to submit a proposal to an external funding agency by Summer 2027 or earlier.



Food Security Research Center SEED Grant Proposal Guidelines

Proposal Guidelines: The proposal must include the information below to be considered for review. Proposals that do not follow the guidelines will be returned without review. Funds will be released after the investigator team obtains a Certificate of Research Compliance from the Office of Research Compliance, fulfilling IRB, IACUC, IBC, and Export Control requirements, as appropriate.

1) Cover page

- a) Proposal Title
- b) PI Faculty Name, Email, Phone, Job Title, Department, College
- c) CoPI (all if applicable) Faculty Name, Email, Phone, Job Title, Department, College

2) Summary page

- a) Proposal Title
- b) Project Summary (300-word limit); should state significance, impact, and priority area addressed

3) Project Description (two-page limit; font size 11 or 12; 1" margin all around; single-spaced)

- a) Background
- b) Goals and objectives
- c) Describe research hypotheses, methods, and expected results
- d) Describe the benefit and broader impact of the proposed project
- e) Describe how the proposed project will advance food security research and be leveraged for external funding
- f) Identify *two* specific external funding programs where future proposals will be submitted (i.e. USDA NIFA-AFRI-Critical Agricultural Research and Extension, NOT just "USDA")
- g) References (not included in the two-page limit)

4) Budget and Justification (see template provided)

- a) Award amount per proposal, up to \$25,000
- b) Allowable Expenses: Faculty summer salary up to 1 month, undergraduate or graduate-student salary (graduate student tuition not allowed), other personnel salary, supplies, travel.
- c) A budget for one year (starting June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027), including justification.

5) Attachments

- a) Two-page Biographical Sketch for each investigator (see template provided)
- b) One recommendation letter from a previous collaborator
- c) A letter of collaboration from all Co-PIs included on this proposal

6) Proposal Submission

- a) Combine in one PDF file: full proposal, budget and budget justification, CVs, collaboration letters, and recommendation letter; Name the PDF file as PI's Lastname_Firstname_SEED.pdf
- b) Submit the PDF file at the foodsecurity@pvamu.edu
- c) Deadline: **April 15** (5 PM CST)

Biographical Sketch – 2 pages Maximum

Jane Smith, Ph.D.

EDUCATION:

EMPLOYMENT:

Research and Professional Experience (contributions to your field): (In narrative form)

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS:

Title: Grant award title

Investigators (list all investigators and their roles): Smith, J.J (PD), Singh, C.S. (Co-PD), Lee, V.A., Hernandez, G.M.

Funding body: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Critical Agriculture Research and Extension

Award duration: 2026-2028

Total grant amount: \$299,880

Funds to you if Co-PD:

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS OVER THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS:

1. **Smith, J.J** (PD), Singh, C.S. (Co-PD), Lee, V.A., Hernandez, G.M. 2026.
Article Title. American Food Journal.

FSRC SEED Budget

A. Senior/Key Personnel	
Subtotal	
B. Other Personnel	
Graduate Students	
Undergraduate Students	
Subtotal	
C. Equipment Description	
List items and the dollar amount – items not to exceed \$5,000	
Subtotal	
D. Travel	
Domestic (including Canada, Mexico, and U.S. Possessions)	
Foreign	
Subtotal	
E. Other Direct Costs	
Materials and Supplies	
Publication Costs	
Subtotal	
GRAND TOTAL	

Detailed Budget Justification: Please attach a clear budget justification (one-page limit).