FY26 Pitt Momentum Funds - Teaming Grant
Guidelines

I. INTENT AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Pitt Momentum Funds (PMF) Teaming Grants support the formation of new multi-disciplinary collaborations that can pursue large-scale external funding. Example projects 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.

Proposals for the FY26 PMF Teaming Grants must have clear alignment with at least one of the moonshots listed in the [2028 Plan for Pitt](#).

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Teaming Grants provide up to $60,000 for one-year research support. Budgets are expected to include convenings and travel to meet with program managers at sponsor agencies to refine their funding strategy. The purchase of software, consumables, or instrumentation to successfully obtain early results is allowable, however, Teaming proposals should emphasize project ideation, planning and formation of collaborations.

Funds may be used for:
- Hiring temporary workers
- Project-related travel
- Contract with consultants or other technical support

Funds ***may not*** be used for:
- Curriculum development and student-centered projects
- Salary support or supplement salaries for either Pitt faculty or external co-investigators
- Organization of conferences
- Bridge funding between projects

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Awardees from the immediate previous funding cycle ***may not*** apply to the same grant-type they were awarded funds for previously (i.e., Teaming awardees from FY25 cannot apply for a Teaming Grant in FY26). This applies to **all** PMF award types.
- Faculty can join only one Teaming Grant proposal submission at a time (either as a PI or co-PI).
- Applicants must be full-time faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh. Eligible appointment stream faculty must have research as their core responsibility.
- Groups applying for a Teaming Grant ***must*** include faculty from at least three schools from the University of Pittsburgh.
  - 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 criteria.
  - A team ***may not*** be comprised of faculty exclusively from DSAS.
  - A team ***may not*** be comprised of faculty exclusively from Health Science schools.
  - 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.

IV. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application for the PMF Teaming Grants requires the submission of an initial Expression of Intent (EOI) via InfoReady and must include:

1. Application title
2. Brief abstract (1000 characters)
3. Explanation of alignment with one of the moonshots in the *Plan for Pitt* (500 characters)
4. List of faculty investigators from at least three schools at the University.
5. Keywords (5)

Once the EOI has been accepted, applicants will be invited to submit a full application that includes:

1. Name of primary applicant
2. Pitt email address (assigned pitt.edu address, not your alias)
3. Primary department
4. Appointment type (Tenure, Tenure Track or Appointment Stream)
5. Academic title
6. Year of terminal degree
7. Name of department administrator
8. Email for department administrator
9. Name(s) of any Co-Applicant(s)
10. Primary department of any Co-Applicant(s)
11. Project statement (2.5-page max)
    The statement should describe the significance of the project, its intended outcomes, and its alignment with the Plan for Pitt. The project statement is limited to a maximum of 2.5 pages of text, prepared in 11-point font with 0.75-inch margins and is to be submitted as a PDF document. One additional page is allowed and may only include relevant figures, images or citations. The statement should include:
    a. a statement of the broader impact the project will have on the field
    b. a statement about the alignment of the project with one of the moonshots in the *Plan for Pitt*
    c. a description of the interdisciplinary team and the expertise each investigator contributes to the project
    d. the methodology and workplan to be followed
    e. a brief budget justification
    f. a detailed strategy of the follow-on funding to be pursued to advance the project (with specific examples)
12. Letter of commitment from Associate Dean for Research (or equivalent)
    The letter describes the in-kind or other financial commitments being made by the department to support the success of the project. The Teaming Grants require the letter to describe the transdisciplinary team applying for the grant. ***The letter must be co-signed by the appropriate leadership of all the co-investigators.*** If the primary

applicant is an Associate Dean for Research, the letter must come from the Dean of the school representing the primary applicant.
13. Abbreviated copy (5-pages max) of lead investigator's CV
14. Total funding requested from PMFs
15. Budget
    Applicants must use the PMF Budget Template to detail the projected expenses for the proposal. Applicants will provide the total of the Teaming Grant budget as a whole number, rounded up to nearest $100.

Applicants with competitive proposals for Teaming Grants will be invited to give a 15-minute pitch session (5-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A) to the selection committee.

V. TIMELINE
All items are to be submitted by 12:00 PM Eastern Time by the dates below.

September 30, 2025	PMF 2026 Teaming Grant Cycle Announced & InfoReady Application Portal Opens
October 03, 2025, 2:00pm	PMF Info Session 1 (Click here to join)
October 06, 2025, 1:30pm	PMF Info Session 2 (Click here to join)
October 24, 2025, 5:00pm	Deadline to submit **required** Expression of Intent (EOI) for Teaming Grants
December 3, 2025, 5:00pm	Deadline to submit full applications for Teaming Grants
February 16, 2026	Pitch Info Session for those who advance to this stage
February 23-24, 2026	Pitch Coaching Sessions for Teaming Grants
March 02, 2026, Noon to 3:00pm	Pitch Day #1, for those who advance to this stage
March 05, 2026, 11:00am-2:00pm	Pitch Day #2, for those who advance to this stage
March 2026	PMF Teaming awardees announced

VI. REVIEW CRITERIA AND SCORING RUBRIC
The Teaming Grants are reviewed by faculty peers from the University of Pittsburgh using the following weighted rubric. The rubric sums to a possible 10 points for the most meritorious of proposals and a possible low score of zero for proposals not aligned with intent of the grants. The reviewers' comments are also important to the proposal evaluation.

A. *Significance of the Project and Intended Outcomes*
   To what extent does the proposed project suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts. Proposals should describe novel research or projects that advance scholarship and merit in their respected field. The significance of the proposed project is: [score 0 (low) – 2 (high)]
   - 0 = Not Competitive
   - 1 = Fair
   - 2 = Strong

B. *Proposal's Clarity of Expression*
How well does the proposal describe the intended work? Does the proposal convey confidence that the team can lead the effort? Proposals should clearly describe the intended goals and be well-written and concise. The clarity of the proposed project is: [score 0 (low) – 3 (high)]
- 0 = Not described at all; significant questions exist about the intended work
- 1 = Modestly described; questions exist about the intended work
- 2 = Described well; few questions exist about the intended work
- 3 = Described very well; there are no questions about the intended work

C. *Feasibility of the Project*
Is there a plan in place to carry out the proposed project? Proposals should detail a well-developed, well-organized plan that considers cost, design and the methodology to achieve the stated outcomes and goals. The feasibility of the proposed project is: [score 0 (low) – 2 (high)]
- 0 = Not Competitive
- 1 = Good
- 2 = Excellent

D. *Follow-on Scholarship and Funding*
Does the proposal explain the applicant's strategy for pursuing follow-on funding? Have one or more specific agencies or foundations been identified for funding opportunities? The follow-on plan of the proposed project is: [score 0 (low) – 3 (high)]
- 0 = Absent or not entirely clear
- 1 = Explained
- 2 = Credible and clear
- 3 = Thoroughly explained and compelling

E. *Funding Recommendation*
Should this proposal be funded? ***If your scores from the preceding questions sum to less than 6, then do not recommend the project for funding.*** The funding suggestion for the described project is:
- Do not fund
- Fund

F. *Reviewer Comments (to be shared with applicant)*
Please provide specific feedback on the proposed project. Comments should focus on the strengths or weaknesses; significance of the project on the broader area of study; the appropriateness of the proposed budget; and the potential for impact. All comments should be constructive and intended to provide supportive feedback to the applicant.

VII. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

A. **Proposal Review Procedures**

Teaming grant proposals must be the original work of the proposing lead investigator/team and will be subject to peer review. A panel of reviewers will be identified for each funding cycle. The Senior Vice Chancellor for Research will make and

announce all final funding decisions.

B. **Period of Performance**

Grant periods for Teaming awards may run up to a maximum of 12 months.

C. **Progress Reporting**

Awardees will submit one-page summary reports on progress towards meeting milestones and any significant accomplishments. Reports are due 6 and 12 months from the date funds are available and might include, for example, reports on successes, insights or changes in research activities or educational environments resulting from the project.

D. **Outcome Reporting**

Lead investigators will report all scholarly outputs attributable to the Teaming awards for a two-year period after conclusion of the period of performance (to be sent to researchdev@pitt.edu). Example outputs include scholarly publications, follow-on funding applications, external honors, positive media appearances, or community partnerships fostered.

E. **Communication**

Lead investigators are expected to communicate in a timely manner any challenges that may impact the successful completion of a project, including requests for modifications to scope or schedule, to researchdev@pitt.edu.

F. **Commitment to Serve as a Reviewer**

All awardees are expected to serve as reviewers for subsequent cycles of the Pitt Momentum Funds.