Global Resilience Institute Cross-College Research Seed-Funding Program

About the Global Resilience Institute

The Global Resilience Institute (GRI) at Northeastern University is an initiative involving all nine of its colleges, making Northeastern the first university to establish resilience as a university-wide focus. GRI is underwritten by a major internal investment that positions it to undertake resilience-related initiatives that will contribute to the safety, security, sustainability, health and well-being of individuals, communities, systems, and societies. In the face of intensifying disruptions of all kinds, both slow-moving and sudden, the concept of resilience is gaining worldwide traction and relevance. The research and educational mission of the Global Resilience Institute is to develop and deploy practical tools, applications, and skills that bolster the capacity of societies at multiple levels to successfully navigate the challenges associated with a more turbulent world. It will accomplish this by organizing and leading external partnerships with the world’s top universities and research centers, by facilitating new interdisciplinary research collaborations, and by working in close partnership with industry, government and non-governmental organizations. Northeastern is uniquely positioned to undertake this effort because of its pursuit of research that focuses on discovering solutions to the global challenges in health, sustainability and security. Additionally, it is home to professors and research centers that have been making widely recognized contributions to resilience scholarship and public policy.

Within the theme of resilience, the Institute will support multi-disciplinary research in eight strategic focus areas that draw on the diversity of resilience-related expertise that already exists at Northeastern University. This includes research capacity in network science, health sciences, coastal and urban sustainability, engineering, cyber-security and privacy, social and behavioral sciences, public policy, urban affairs, business, law, game design, architecture, and geospatial analysis.

1. **Resilience tools**: Development of models, visualization, and simulation tools to support urban planning; public policy; community development, public safety, security, and emergency management; and post-disaster recovery and adaptation

2. **Resilience design**: Research on cross-sector design of infrastructure, systems, and networks that prepare for climate change and other disruptive hazards — both man-made and naturally occurring

3. **Resilience governance**: Research on adaptable networked organizations, public, private and non-governmental organizations interactions, to manage increasingly complex and interdependent systems that operate across multiple political jurisdictions

4. **Resilience incentives**: Research on the role of regulations, standards, codes, and market-based incentives such as insurance and reinsurance that can advance early and widespread adoption of resilience best practices

5. **Individual resilience**: Research on individual capacity to cope and respond to trauma, adversity, and aging, including linkages between physical and emotional health
6. **Measuring resilience**: Development of tools, models, and methodologies to quantitatively evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of resilience solutions.

7. **Community resilience**: Research on social interactions networks and communication to include the role of social media within communities; cultural resilience; inclusive well-being and prosperity for all members of a community; barriers that contribute to growing socio-economic inequality, racial and gender exclusion, and other forms of disparity in vulnerabilities and opportunities.

8. **Security and resilience**: Research on the role of resilience in response to transnational threats, critical infrastructure protection, and data and communications security.

**Objective of the GRI Seed-Funding Program**

Through a competitive review process, the Institute will be making available seed-funding for resilience-related research collaborations. This funding will support innovative, collaborative cross-college research proposals within Northeastern University. The goal of the program is to provide 1-2 years of seed funding for research projects that will then be positioned to successfully compete for major external grants. Awardees are expected to work with GRI on identifying follow-on sponsors for the research and to pursue external grants by the end of year 1 of funding.

**Available Funding**

Annual funding per project is expected to range from $30,000 to $75,000. Note these amounts may vary over time.

**Funding Eligibility**

Faculty from all nine colleges at Northeastern University, who are committed to building interdisciplinary resilience research capacity, will be eligible to apply for funding per below:

1. Proposals must have a detailed collaborative research plan for a performance period of 1-2 years.

2. Proposals must be novel and involve co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) from at a minimum of two colleges.

3. Proposal co-PI’s must have a faculty appointment. Eligible faculty appointments include tenured or tenure-track faculty, Teaching Professors and Professors of Practice, non-tenure in-residence research faculty, other non-tenured affiliated research faculty, clinical professors, and research scientists/scholars.

4. The proposed project must rely predominantly on the work of the co-PIs;

5. Proposals may incorporate post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants, research associates, adjunct faculty, and graduate students, but these researchers cannot serve as co-PI’s.

6. Proposals must demonstrate potential to receive future external funding.
Proposal Format

All proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document with a file name that clearly identifies the proposed project. Proposals must use the proposal template below which contains the following sections:

a. Proposal Cover Page (including contact Information of all co-PIs)
b. Project Summary (200 words of less)
c. Research Plan (3-4 pages not including references)
d. Budget & accompanying Budget Justification
e. 2-page cv’s for each of the co-PIs

Proposal Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of faculty on the GRI advisory committee and GRI Director, Stephen Flynn, and GRI Associate Directors Jennie Stephens, Mark Patterson, and Phil Anderson.

Proposal Submission

After a deadline is announced, all submissions should be sent to GRISubmissions@northeastern.edu. The next deadline for applications is TBD.

Project Reporting

Awardees will be required to submit periodic progress reports and participate in GRI semi-annual research progress workshops, and a final report at the conclusion of the award period. Throughout the funding period awardees will work with GRI on identifying follow-on sponsors for the research and pursue external grants. By the end of year one of funding, the awardee must identify an external funding source and demonstrate progress toward obtaining funding from the source.

Eligible Expenses

Project award funding may only be used for direct costs in the following categories:

- Support personnel essential for conducting the research project, such as doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research assistants
- Northeastern resources that require fee-for-services
- Participant incentives for recruitment in field studies
- Travel that is necessary to conduct the research or to meet with future sponsors
- Minor equipment (<$5,000) necessary for conducting the research
- Project supplies, including materials and external services
- Other specifically authorized expenses that are essential for carrying out the research.
- Summer salary of co-PIs *

*Course Buyouts/academic year salary could be considered in special circumstances if well justified and with approval from Department Chair and College Dean.
Project award funding may not be used for the following:

a) Living expenses
b) Service/maintenance contracts on equipment
c) Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations
d) Major equipment purchases ($5000 or more)
e) Institutional and/or individual memberships in professional organizations
f) Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries
g) Investigator training costs, including tuition

Questions:

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