UNC Charlotte - Division of Research
Core Facilities - Request for Support

The UNC Charlotte Core Facilities Program is intended to enhance our research excellence across campus as guided by the UNC Charlotte Strategic Plan, the Top-tier Research Excellence Report, and the Research Implementation Design. The program goals are to:

- Identify and strengthen physical resources and equipment that strategically support research centers and clusters of faculty activity.
- Provide the university with a differentiated, competitive advantage in niche areas of nationally recognized strength.
- Provide a rational, transparent, and financially sustainable approach to investing in facilities that follows federal and state laws and regulations.

The Division of Research expects to invest approximately $1M during FY25 (e.g., beginning in the fall 2024 semester), with similar investments in FY26 and FY27.

This program anticipates two types of requests:

- New Core Facility requests.
- Replacement of shared research equipment that has exceeded its useful lifetime.

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent due **March 1, 2024**, specifying type of request
- Proposal (*up to two pages, single spaced*) due **April 15, 2024**

Eligibility

- Proposals must be led by a tenured faculty member, along with up to 6 faculty facility users.
- A full-time staff member who can serve as core facility manager.
- Support from the Dean of the College in which the majority of faculty are based.
- Cost-share/match (minimum total of 10%) from the Faculty/Department/College

Questions to Answer in Proposal

- What is the main function/focus of proposed core facility?
- Who is the primary point of contact?
- Where will the facility be located?
- What are the existing equipment resources? Are these currently shared resources?
- Who are the current, primary users of these facilities?
- List the external funding over past 3 years for up to 6 facility users (faculty co-PIs)
- List of users of related facilities over past 3 years (internal/external)
  - Department/college affiliation
  - External client's business location
  - Other potential users of the proposed core?
- How are these facilities supported now?
- Is there a dedicated staff for operation, maintenance, and training?
- Specifically, what level of support is being requested from DoR?
  - One-time (equipment purchases) – provide quotation(s) from a potential vendor (does not count against 2-page limit)
- Cost-share/match provided, amount & source.

Selection Criteria

Support will preference facilities that meet the following criteria:
- Facility supports a research area that aligns with a research hub represented by a center, Ignite Pilot Center, areas identified in the Top-tier Research Excellence Report, or an emerging research cluster.
- The faculty involved have already been successful in securing competitive, external research funding and are poised to move to an even higher level of success with improved facilities.
- Facility will lead to a new or greatly expanded funding stream for the team.
- The business case is favorable, i.e., in terms of research and service contracts.
- Evidence of pay-per-use income from internal and external users.
- External funding of facility PIs over the past 3 years.
- Existence of dedicated staff member(s) responsible for maintenance and training.
- Cost-share/match (minimum total of 10%) from the Faculty/Department/College.

Examples of prioritized types of requests:
- A highly productive research faculty team that is collectively managing a large and thematically related external grant portfolio.
- Supports current and future clusters of faculty (e.g., with faculty positions committed to a given area that will very likely use the proposed facility.

Requirements for Awardees
- The faculty and staff leaders of the facility agree to initial training and ongoing support from business affairs.
- Facility operation remains in compliance.
- Facility's business model approaches sustainability within 1-4 years.
- Other requirements as set forth by the Core Facility Task Force.

Application Process
Complete applications will consist of
- Initial letter of intent.
- Proposal: Answering each of "**Questions to Answer in Proposal**"
- Brief note of support from the Chair/Dean with confirmation of the match commitment.

Selection Process
Awardees will be selected by the Vice Chancellor for Research and/or the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in consultation with the Chair of the Core Facility Task Force, the Provost, and relevant Dean(s).

FAQs
We will hold two zoom Q&A sessions ahead of the deadline for the letters of intent. You may sign up here to attend a session.

Questions?
Contact Dr. Glenn Boreman, Chair of the Core Facility Task Force at gboreman@charlotte.edu