Cross-Cutting Initiative 2016-2017

Smartphone Applications for Citizen Scientists

Call for Proposals

To:

Columbia University Faculty
Columbia University Research Scientists
Columbia University Research Scholars
Columbia University Postdoctoral Scientists and Scholars
Columbia University Students

Typical Award Amounts:
Smartphone apps: $10,000 maximum

Proposal Deadline
        Friday, April 29, 2016   12 noon

Award Notification
        Friday, July 1, 2016

Call for Proposals- Development grants for smartphone apps for citizen scientists

This is a supplement to the annual CCI call, seeking proposals that focus on the development of smartphone apps that could be used by citizen scientists interested in the environment and environmental monitoring activities. This calls follows a series of three workshops held over the academic year 2015/16, which introduced examples, concepts and needs for smartphone apps relevant to air, water and soil monitoring.

For additional information, contact Gabriella Cohen at gcohen@ei.columbia.edu or 212-854-0418.

Eligibility and Composition of Research Team

Cross-Cutting Initiative and smartphone app development funds are only available for projects in which a member of the Columbia University (CU) community is the Principal Investigator (PI).
- In the case of smartphone app proposals, the PI can be a registered student at Columbia at any level.
- For students, one member of the team must be a registered student at Columbia in the 2016-2017 academic year.
- There can be up to four co-PIs per proposal. Co-PIs need not be members of the Columbia University community. There is no limit to the number of project team members.

N.B. A project that receives funding from the Cross-Cutting Initiative is an Earth Institute project and will remain so regardless of changes in project leadership.

Awards and Funding Guidelines

Smartphone app development grants are up to $10,000 each.

The Steering Committee may stipulate changes to any proposal as a requirement for funding. It may also, at its discretion, award less money than was originally requested by a project team.

Terms of usage:
All funds must remain within Columbia University except for products and services explicitly outlined in the proposal budget (*i.e.* consultants). Typically, non-Columbia University co-PIs cannot be compensated with CCI funds for their effort. Any exceptions should be justified in the proposal.

Continued access to project funds is contingent upon the timely submission or progress and final reports.

Any unspent funds must be returned to the CCI fund at the close of a project unless written approval has been granted to extend the award past the project's end date. No-cost extensions must be requested one month prior to the project close date.

Proposal Format

The proposal should include the following documents:

- New project proposal coversheet (attached)
- Project description (up to 3 pages) *Only the first three pages of the project description will be considered*
- Two-page CVs for each the PI and co-PIs
- References (up to one page, no smaller than a 10-point font).
- Appendices are not permitted
- All proposals, including itemized budgets, must be submitted as a PDF and written in 12-point font with one-inch margins.

Project Description

Please include the following:
1. **Statement of the problem**
2. **How the app will address the problem**
3. **Programming expertise/track record of the applicant**
4. **Conflicts of Interest**
   This section should list any member of the Cross-Cutting Steering Committee that has a conflict of interest with the proposed project. Members of the Steering Committee who are directly or indirectly involved with the development of the proposal. Although it may not be considered a conflict of interest, the project team should state whether it had any discussions with committee members in preparing the proposal. Present committee membership includes Peter Schlosser (chair), Steve Cohen, Richard Deckelbaum, Hugh Ducklow, Pierre Gentine, Art Lerner-Lam, Richard Plunz, Roseline Remans, Wolfram Schlenker, Mingfang Ting, Maria Uriarte, and Alexander van Geen.

5. **Itemized Budget**
   This section should contain an itemized budget projected for the smartphone app funding. The project period is Fiscal Year 2017: July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017. If this request is part of a larger project, please indicate how the remainder of the funds will be obtained or what portion can be accomplished with the requested seed funds.

   Indirect costs should not be included in the budget, except fringe benefits on salaries, which should be calculated at the rate of 30.5% for Officers of Research, Instruction and Administration. This rate does not apply to students. Please use Columbia University's guidelines for calculating fringe rates:

http://finance.columbia.edu/content/fringe-benefit-rates.

The grant money cannot be used to cover student tuition, but it can be used for interns, research assistants and work stipends. Grant money can be allotted, at the discretion of the project leader, to cover faculty time or to provide additional funds to complement existing salaries. The CCI Steering Committee recommends that grant money be applied to junior staff salaries instead of senior staff.

If applicable:

Required Equipment and Approvals: If demonstration of your application involves human subjects (this includes surveys) you will need Institutional Review Board approval. The proposal should list the approvals necessary for project initiation (e.g. Institutional Review Board). Projects will not be funded until all necessary approvals have been obtained. This section should also describe the equipment to be used and should state and justify the need for any new equipment. Seed funding can be used to purchase software if needed but cannot be used to purchase new computers.

Deadlines

Pitch fest

Applicants are encouraged to present their idea at April 22 pitch fest, **10:00 am to 12:00 pm,** Columbia University, Morningside Campus, Alfred J. Lerner Hall, Room 555.

RSVP here: http://earth.columbia.edu/events/view/80181

To present your idea in the pitch fest, please send descriptive title for idea and developer name to Lex van Geen at avangeen@ldeo.columbia.edu or Patricia Culligan at pjc2104@columbia.edu by 5pm on April 20, 2016.

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be received electronically by 12 noon, on April 29, 2016, to cci@ei.columbia.edu. *Late submissions will not be considered.*

Award Notification

Award notifications will be made by July 1, 2016.

Midterm and Final Progress Reports

PIs will be expected to provide a one-page written progress report six months into the project to the Cross-Cutting Initiative Steering Committee. A final report is due at the end of the project. The final report form will be provided one month before of the deadline but can also be requested in advance from Gabriella Cohen, gcohen@ei.columbia.edu