

# Summer Grant Writing Incentive Program

Pilot Program - Summer 2026

Application Deadline: May 15, 2026

## Program at a Glance

Program	HEST Summer Grant Writing Incentive (Pilot, 2026)
Awards	Two (2) awards available
Stipend per Award	\$8,000 (sole PI) or split between PI and Co-PI
Bonus upon Funding	\$2,000 in professional development funds per project (if subsequently awarded)
Team Size	Maximum of two people (PI + one Co-PI)
Eligible Grants	Federal, state, or major private foundation; IDC required ( $\geq 10\%$ )
Minimum Budget	\$250,000 in direct costs
Review Panel	Dean, Associate Dean for Research, Director of Research Operations

## Overview & Purpose

The College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation is pleased to announce the Summer Grant Writing Incentive Program, a pilot initiative designed to support and reward HEST faculty who dedicate time over the summer to developing large, competitive external grant proposals. The program provides a summer salary supplement to offset the time cost of grant writing and to promote a culture of active, funded research within the College.

Two awards will be available in Summer 2026. This program is offered on a one-year pilot basis and may be continued in subsequent years contingent on available funds and the success of the pilot cohort. This stipend is an *incentive*, not seed funding. Applicants should be proposing to write grants for which they are currently positioned to submit a competitive application; that is, proposals that do not require pilot data or other prerequisite work that has not yet been completed. **[Awarded faculty are expected to not teach and focus exclusively on grant preparation over the summer.](#)**



# Eligibility

## Key Takeaways

All full-time HEST faculty who commit to focusing exclusively on grant submission preparation if awarded are eligible to apply. Applications may be submitted by a sole Principal Investigator (PI) or by a team of two (i.e., a PI and one Co-Investigator). Teams are limited to two people.

## Eligible Grant Proposals

To be eligible, the grant proposal being written must meet all of the following criteria:

- Submitted to a federal agency, state funding body, or major private foundation
- Support research or training activities
- Request a minimum of \$250,000 in direct costs
- Allow significant indirect cost (IDC) recovery at the federally negotiated rate, or at a minimum of 10%

Proposals that limit or waive IDC recovery (or that are otherwise structured to preclude full indirect cost return to the institution) are not eligible. If you have questions about whether a specific opportunity qualifies, contact the ADR prior to applying.

## Award Details

### Summer Salary Stipend

Each award includes a summer salary supplement of \$8,000. For sole-PI applications, the full amount is awarded to the PI. For two-person teams, the stipend will be divided between the PI and Co-I as agreed upon and specified in the application.

### Professional Development Supplement (Upon Funding)

If the grant proposal developed under this award is subsequently funded by the external sponsor, the PI (or PI and Co-I team) will receive an additional \$2,000 in professional development funds. For two-person teams, this supplement will be split between the PI and Co-I. This additional award is contingent on the grant being funded and is not guaranteed as part of the initial summer award.

## Expectations of Award Recipients

Recipients of the Summer Grant Writing Incentive are expected to:

- Submit the targeted grant application to the sponsoring agency prior to the stated deadline
- Provide **twice-monthly progress reports** to the Associate Dean for Research (ADR) during the summer period
- Share working documents with the ADR on an ongoing basis to demonstrate active progress (e.g., draft sections, outlines, budget narratives). Recipients should anticipate providing the ADR access to documents *as they are developed*, not only upon completion

Failure to fulfill these expectations may affect eligibility for future HEST research incentive programs.



# Application Requirements

Applications must include the following:

- A link to the specific funding opportunity announcement (FOA/RFP) for the grant the PI plans to write
- A brief project narrative (no more than one page) describing: (a) the research or training topic; (b) why the PI/team is well-positioned to submit a competitive proposal at this time; and (c) the anticipated timeline for proposal development and submission
- A proposed budget allocation indicating how the stipend will be divided (for two-person teams)
- CV(s) for all named personnel

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the ADR prior to submitting an application. The ADR is available to discuss the fit of a proposed grant with program criteria, offer strategic feedback on the opportunity, and help applicants frame their narrative effectively. This pre-submission consultation is not required but is highly recommended.

## Review Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising:

- Associate Dean for Research (ADR), HEST
- Dean, HEST
- Director of Research Operations, HEST

Awards will be made on a competitive basis. The review panel will evaluate applications on the following criteria:

- Competitiveness and fit of the proposed grant opportunity
- Readiness of the PI/team to submit (i.e., no outstanding prerequisite work required)
- Potential to generate meaningful indirect cost recovery for HEST and NMSU
- Quality and specificity of the proposed work plan and timeline

The panel reserves the right to make fewer than two awards if an insufficient number of qualifying and worthy applications are received.

## Submission Instructions and Contact

Applications must be submitted to the HEST Office of the Associate Dean for Research no later than 11:59 PM on May 15, 2026. Late applications will not be considered. For questions about the program, eligibility, or to schedule a pre-submission consultation with the ADR, please contact the HEST ADR at [mhout@nmsu.edu](mailto:mhout@nmsu.edu)

