



## Goergen Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Seed Funding Program

### Call for Proposals for 2025-26

#### 1. Synopsis and Review Criteria

The Goergen Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (GIDS-AI) invites proposals for seed grants in data science. The GIDS-AI seed funding program aims to support collaborative research efforts toward attracting major external funding, with a particular focus on work aligned with at least one of the following research priorities in data science and artificial intelligence:

- 1) Foundations of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI)
- 2) Imaging, optics, and computer/human vision
- 3) Life sciences and biomedical data science
- 4) Health analytics and digital health
- 5) Human-data-system interfaces and computational reality (including human-computer interaction, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), robotics)
- 6) Computational social science
- 7) AI for physical science

PIs will be expected to identify which of these seven areas their proposal is most closely aligned with, although exceptional proposals in other data science and artificial intelligence-related research areas will also be considered. PIs will also be expected to identify specific external funding opportunities they are planning to pursue based their seed grant.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their intellectual merit and on their potential to attract collaborative external funding in areas of interest for GIDS-AI. Proposals will be reviewed by anonymous reviewers from the University community with relevant expertise.

#### 2. Award Information

The maximum budget for GIDS-AI seed grants is \$30,000. Grants will be awarded for September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Funds can be used for student/post-doc support, equipment, materials and supplies, software, publication costs, travel, and other justified expenses. Funds may not be used for faculty salaries. PIs are expected to submit a brief report within a month of the completion of awarded projects, describing project activities and efforts to secure external funding.

#### 3. Due Date

Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday, June 16, 2025.



#### 4. Eligibility

Principal investigators (PIs) must be full-time faculty members at the University of Rochester. Each proposal must have a PI, and may include up to three co-PIs, and other senior personnel, as needed. The PI or at least one of the co-PIs must be a [GIDS-AI affiliated faculty member](#). There are no limits on the number of proposals per faculty member.

#### 5. Submission Instructions

The following information must be submitted as part of the application. All documents should be in 11 point, Times New Roman font, single column.

- i. Project title, names of the PI, co-PIs, senior personnel, amount of funding requested, GIDS-AI research area (this information will be entered into an online form).
- ii. Project abstract (up to 400 words).
- iii. Project description (3 pages maximum). The project description must clearly describe the intellectual merit of the proposed work. It should also indicate the specific external collaborative funding opportunities the project team is planning to pursue based on their seed grant. References can also be included as additional pages in the project description document.
- iv. CVs/biosketches of the PI, co-PIs, and all senior personnel (NSF or NIH style is preferred but not required).
- v. Budget spreadsheet (template available on the GIDS-AI website).
- vi. Budget justification (1 page maximum).

Proposals must be submitted electronically via [REDCap](#).

For questions about the GIDS-AI seed funding program, contact GIDS-AI Director Mujdat Cetin ([mujdat.cetin@rochester.edu](mailto:mujdat.cetin@rochester.edu)) or GIDS-AI Associate Director for Research Gonzalo Mateos ([gmateosb@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:gmateosb@ur.rochester.edu)).

For questions about the submission process, contact Sylvia Tiballi ([sylvia.francisco@rochester.edu](mailto:sylvia.francisco@rochester.edu)).