

Call for Proposals: NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program

September 18, 2019

The NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program supports research and data-driven pilot programs designed to enhance student-athlete psychosocial well-being and mental health. In 2020, the NCAA will award \$100,000 in grants to member institutions that are designing data-informed resources or piloting on-campus programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of NCAA student-athletes. Grant recipients will be invited to present their work to hundreds of key stakeholders in intercollegiate athletics in January 2021 at the NCAA Convention in Washington, D.C.

Potential topics include, *but are not limited to*, managing transitions (e.g., from recruit to first-year student; transferring between universities; adapting from youth sports to college sports environment; developing independence from parents), identity development, stress management, substance use, bystander intervention, cultivating healthy relationships, career exploration and sport exit strategies.

Proposals will be judged on their originality, feasibility, clarity and, most significantly, the potential to result in *campus-level resources and programming* that can positively impact student-athlete psychosocial well-being and mental health at a range of member institutions (e.g., across divisions, geographic regions and resource availability levels).

Grant funding

Applicants may request up to \$25,000 in funding; a minimum of four grants will be funded in 2020. *Proposals from NCAA Divisions II and III will be given special consideration in the 2020 grant review process.*

Eligibility and restrictions

Project directors must be employed at NCAA institutions. Interdisciplinary proposals bringing together athletics department administrators, coaches, student affairs practitioners and faculty are strongly encouraged. Project team members will be responsible for coordinating review of their work with the Institutional Review Board on their own campus, if applicable.

Proposal format

Please merge the eight proposal components outlined below into one PDF document to upload with your application. Any supplemental materials must also be included in the single PDF and can only be submitted for review via NCAA Program Hub, not email.

1. **Cover page.** The cover page should indicate the title of the proposal, member institution with which the project director is affiliated, contact information for the project director (name, title, address, email, phone number) and contact information for the campus grants/sponsored projects office.
2. **Proposal narrative.** The proposal narrative should be detailed but concise (2,000 words or fewer) and must include the following elements:

- a. Problem statement.** [Not to exceed 250 words.] Clearly identify the issue(s) that the research and/or pilot program is designed to address. How does this problem manifest itself on campus (locally), and how is it a part of the landscape of intercollegiate athletics (national context)?
 - b. Project description.** The proposal should clearly identify, create and/or support resources or programs designed to improve student-athlete well-being at the institutional level that have the potential to be adopted or adapted at a range of NCAA member institutions.
 - c. Program evaluation plan.** Please discuss the relevant data/research guiding the proposed work, and detail how key findings will be applied in a practical environment or educational setting. Clearly describe how resources or pilot programs will be evaluated both in the short term and over time (e.g., participant feedback survey at the end of the program; follow-up survey six weeks later to see if students retained and/or used information gained during program).
 - d. Membership deliverable.** Please describe what will be shared with the membership to facilitate the adoption or adaptation of your resource(s) or program at the end of the grant cycle (e.g., website, program manual, curriculum guide, smart phone app, videos, etc.). Grant recipients are expected to make deliverables available to the membership at minimal or no cost.
- 3. Citations.** Appropriately reference (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) any works cited throughout the proposal narrative.
- 4. Timeline.** Provide a timeline for the various aspects of the proposed project, with an end date by Jan. 8, 2021, not to exceed two pages.
- 5. Proposed budget.** Grants may be used for salary support, data collection, equipment and miscellaneous programmatic expenses such as software, food and books. *Indirect costs, living expenses, conference registration fees and conference travel will not be supported.* Separate funding will be provided for the project director to attend the 2021 NCAA Convention. Those funded will be required to submit records of expenses to the NCAA as part of the grant reporting process.
- 6. Budget narrative.** The narrative should provide a rationale for the items listed in the project budget, not to exceed one page.
- 7. Resume.** Please include the resume of the project director(s), limited to two pages per person.
- 8. Letter(s) of Support.** Please include at least one letter of support for your proposed project/pilot program. This letter should, at a minimum, attest to the feasibility of your proposed research or pilot program and the ability of the PI/team to accomplish the proposed research or programming. A letter of support from the director of athletics or senior woman administrator is strongly encouraged.

Submission instructions

The grant proposal is due **Friday, November 22, 2019, by 4 p.m. Eastern time**. NCAA grants and scholarships are operated from the NCAA Program Hub. Innovations Grant applications **must** be uploaded to this website directly (ncaa.org/programhub), and applicants should expect the process (including Program Hub registration) to take 15-20 minutes. Those submitting proposals who have not accessed the Program Hub previously need to create a new profile. Detailed instructions can be found [here](#). A confirmation page will be displayed after the proposal is submitted.

Funding disbursement

Two-thirds of the total award will be disbursed at the beginning of the grant period (after a grant agreement has been signed), one-sixth on the acceptance of the interim report, and one-sixth on the acceptance of the final report.

Dates and deadlines

September 18, 2019	Announcement of grant program
November 22, 2019	Deadline for proposals, <u>4 p.m. Eastern time</u>
February 10, 2020	Announcement of grant recipients
July 17, 2020	Interim report due
January 8, 2021	Final report due

Review process

A review panel composed of athletics administrators, student affairs professionals, coaches, student-athletes and faculty representing NCAA member institutions across the three divisions reviews proposals and determines the grant recipients. Successful and unsuccessful PIs will be notified when the NCAA External Review Panel has made its decision, no later than February 10, 2020.

Restrictions

Grant recipients retain legal rights to intellectual property developed during grant funding. Development and dissemination of future deliverables beyond the 2021 NCAA Convention is strongly encouraged. Grant recipients are expected to make results and products available to the membership at minimal or no cost.

Questions

Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Innovations Grant [website](#). If your question is not answered there, please contact Jen Smith, administrative assistant for research, at jssmith@ncaa.org.