

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

November 10, 2023

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 2024, the NCAA will award up to \$100,000 in grants to researchers at member institutions that are designing data-informed resources or piloting on-campus programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of NCAA student-athletes.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, new approaches to encouraging wellness behaviors or mental health help-seeking, career exploration, supporting transfer students, managing personal branding, NIL education, cultivating healthy relationships and successful exit from sport. <u>Program proposals addressing gambling education or social media use/abuse will be given special consideration in the 2024 grant review process.</u>

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 \$35,000 in funding, although grants may be funded at smaller amounts.

# Eligibility

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

### **Grant Period**

The funding period spans May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

### **Submission Process**

There is a two-step application process. Preliminary proposals, one-page in length, are to be submitted by January 12, 2024. After review by an independent panel, a maximum of 15 project teams will be asked to submit a full proposal by March 8, 2024. Grantees will be announced by April 17, 2024.

# **Preliminary Proposal Format**

The one-page proposal should be written for a general audience, with the intent that the reader can gain a basic understanding of your project idea and how your work might be adapted/adopted for their own campus. Please consider using color, graphics, and limiting the amount of text you include on the page.



Preliminary proposal examples can be found under the *Information for Applicants* header on the program webpage. Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024, by 4 p.m. Eastern time.

Preliminary proposals must include the following elements:

- 1. Project title
- 2. College/University
- 3. Problem statement. What issue will your project address?
- 4. Project description. How will your innovative program address this issue?
- 5. Evaluation plan. How will you know if your project/intervention works?
- 6. Membership deliverable. How will other NCAA schools be able to adopt/adapt your program?
- 7. Project team. Name, role, area of expertise.
- 8. Approximate total budget (not to exceed \$35,000)

### **Submission Instructions**

The preliminary grant proposal is due <u>January 12, 2024 by 4 p.m. Eastern time</u>. NCAA grants and scholarships are operated from the NCAA Program Hub. Innovations Grant applications <u>must</u> be uploaded to this website directly (<u>ncaa.org/programhub</u>), and applicants should expect the process (including Program Hub registration) to take 15-20 minutes. Those submitting proposals who have not accessed Program Hub previously need to create a new profile. Detailed instructions can be found <u>here</u>. A confirmation page will be displayed after the proposal is submitted.

# Full Proposal Format (by invitation only)

Project teams selected to submit a full proposal will be expected to merge the eight proposal components outlined below into <u>one PDF document</u> to upload with their 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. *Deadline: Friday, March 8, 2024, by 4 p.m. Eastern time.* 

- 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 (3,000 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 eight weeks later to see if students retained and/or used information gained during program).
- d. Membership deliverable(s). 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.) and how you intend to share it. 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 April 30, 2025, 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. Those funded will be required to submit records of expenses to the NCAA as part of the grant reporting process. Unused or uncommitted funds must be returned to the NCAA.
- **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) and key members of the project team, limited to two pages per person.
- **8. Letter(s) of support.** At least one letter of support for your proposed project/pilot program from the campus athletics department is required. 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.

## **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**

November 10, 2023 Call for proposals is released

January 12, 2024 Preliminary proposal deadline, 4 p.m. Eastern time

February 9, 2024 Applicants notified; 10-15 finalists selected

March 8, 2024 Full proposal deadline for finalists, 4 p.m. Eastern time

April 17, 2024 Grantees announced December 13, 2024 Interim report due

April 30, 2025 Final report and deliverable(s) due

May 30, 2025 Final expense report due

### **Review Process**

An external panel composed of athletics administrators, student affairs professionals, coaches, student-athletes and faculty representing NCAA member institutions across the three divisions will review the proposals and determine the finalists and grant recipients. All submissions will receive notification of whether a full application is requested by February 9, 2024. Finalists will be notified of the review panel's decision no later than April 17, 2024.

## Restrictions

Grant recipients retain legal rights to intellectual property developed during grant funding. <u>Grant recipients are expected to make results and products available to the membership at minimal or no cost by the end of the grant term.</u>

## Questions

Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Innovations Grant <u>website</u>. If your question is not answered there, please contact <u>research@ncaa.org</u>.