



RESEARCH

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. Program proposals addressing gambling education or social media use/abuse will be given special consideration in the 2024 grant review process.

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.



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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 **January 12, 2024 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 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.

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 one PDF document 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.



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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. 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.

Questions

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