

Grand Challenges informational session questions and answers

Several questions related to **faculty salary & course releases**: the RFP states, “Large portions of the budget should **not** go to faculty time or course buyouts, though a modest amount of summer salary is allowable.”

- We encourage applicants to link their budget to specific needs that will have the most impact on program development, which may include staff or student programmatic support or support for engagement with stakeholders. Faculty compensation can be considered as a part of this overall strategy, but it should be linked to specific activities or goals, and it should not be expected that all faculty team members are compensated for participation on a team. It is difficult to put an exact number on an appropriate amount of faculty compensation because funding mechanisms and costs vary widely across colleges and disciplines. Teams should request what they believe they need but may be asked to re-budget at the start of the program should their applications be successful.

Who is on the review team?

- The review team will be selected after all letters of intent are received, with a plan to try to match disciplinary expertise to applications for at least one reviewer for each application. Teams should write about their challenges and research plans in language that can be understood across disciplines as we cannot guarantee disciplinary matches from a corps of volunteers.

Can budget funds be allocated for honorarium to external partners?

- If these are within university fiscal policy, yes. Teams should think carefully about whether this is the best way to support the implementation of their research programs.

Grand Challenges is a presidential initiative and with the current president leaving, will the program be funded at the same level?

- Funding for the Grand Challenges Level 2 program has been committed. As always, continued funding is dependent on budget availability and the strategic priorities of leadership. Thus far, the Grand Challenges program has been an excellent return on investment, so we have a solid foundation to expect that the program will grow under new leadership.

Is Level 3 (a center or institute) the expected goal of every Level 2 team?

- No, while some teams have become centers, not every team is expected to create a new center at the end of the program, even if they are very successful at meeting their goals. “Leveling up” will look like different things for different challenges. We encourage teams to consider where they would like to be at the end of the program and use this to guide their strategies.

How much of Level 2 is focused on research and education?

- Level 2 is a research program; applications should primarily focus on planned research activity with an eye to “engaging the community in the research process and outcomes.” VPR Fisher famously notes that “research is education,” but how the team incorporates educative activities will depend on the goals of the team and how they relate to the team’s chosen topic. We strongly encourage teams to engage students in carrying out both their research and outreach goals.

Is there any thinking or planning regarding a dedicated physical space for Grand Challenge teams to meet on main campus? Would the OVPR consider dedicated space or central location?

- The OVPR does not have suitable space available beyond our offices at 1312 Basehart in the Science and Technology Park (south campus). We have a conference room available for team meetings and free, no pass required parking outside of the building. Grand Challenges staff can also assist in locating and booking suitable meeting space on main campus. We also encourage teams to work with their affiliated Schools or Colleges to support their activities.

Do we need to submit biosketches/resumes for every team member even if they are in advisory/affiliate roles?

- Submit biosketches/resumes for people who are actively participating in team activities on a regular basis. They should be listed on the **team members** tab of the team roster template.
- If someone is making very occasional recommendations or participating in a one-time event, they should be listed on the **advisors/stakeholders** tab of the team roster template. You do not need to submit biosketches or resumes for advisors and stakeholders.
- The team roster template can be downloaded from InfoReady.