



Research Enterprise
& Outreach
EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Emerge: AI

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

Released September 23, 2024, Amended October 10, 2024

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The College of Education & Human Development's Research Enterprise & Outreach (REO) office is pleased to announce *Emerge*: which is designed to be a discovery and rapid-response program. Developed with the generous support and funding from Dean Michael A. de Miranda, the *Emerge*: program is designed to fund CEHD researchers in addressing an urgent need for research on an emerging topic of interest.

RFAs will be issued as specific topics arise that require a rapid response in research, are urgent in nature, and are appropriate for funding through the *Emerge*: mechanism. The *Emerge*: proposal process requires that CEHD researchers submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the REO office before submitting a full grant proposal. The LOIs will be reviewed and selected applicants will be invited to submit full applications.

FY 2025 Current Topic: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Introduction/Purpose

In response to the recent acceleration of advancements in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its related subfields/branches, REO is inviting CEHD researchers to submit research proposals to address the urgent need for research on the social, experimental, and educational challenges and opportunities arising from advances in AI technology.

Proposals may range from understanding the challenges, applications, developments, and/or advances of AI in the lab, classroom, or other applicable setting.

Eligibility

Principal Investigators: Open to all CEHD faculty members (T/TT and APT). Researchers cannot be the PI on more than one application.

Co-Investigators: Co-Investigators can be CEHD faculty at any rank (T/TT, APT, etc.). Researchers may be listed as Co-Investigators on multiple projects. Co-Investigators can hold positions outside of the CEHD (either internal or external to TAMU); however, no funds can be spent outside of the CEHD.

For additional guidance on PI and Co-I eligibility, please contact the CEHD REO office.

Award Amounts

The Dean has set aside \$150,000 total in funding for this program in the FY2025, and we anticipate awarding two to three grants.



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The Emerge: grant mechanism is an investment in CEHD research. Applicants will need to work with the REO Office to assess the appropriate Emerge: budget cap and budget needs. Further details will be provided under the Budget Request section of the invitation to submit a full proposal.

Because every proposal will have a unique and varying degree of need achieving its goals in AI research, budgets will be reviewed carefully, with the potential of minor or major budget revisions made prior to approval and award. **Note that scholarship is anticipated on outcomes resulting from this Emerge: award.**

Project Period

Emerge: awards are for a maximum of 12 months from the first disbursement of funding, ending no later than August 31, 2026. Any delay in funding disbursement due to delays in receiving TAMU compliance office approval will shorten the project period accordingly. Any funds remaining in the awardee’s Emerge: project account at the end of the project period must be returned to the Dean’s office.

Key Dates

September 23, 2024	Release of Request for Letter of Intent
October 18, 2024	Deadline for Letter of Intent
November 1, 2024	Invitation to Submit Full Proposal
	<i>Guidelines will be provided upon invitation to submit</i>
December 20, 2024	Deadline for Full Proposal (5:00pm, CDT)
January 31, 2025	Awards announced
February 1 to August 31, 2025	Awards activated pending Compliance requirements
	<i>Funds must be activated by August 31, 2025</i>
August 31, 2026	End date of Emerge: AI project funding
	<i>Check-in due in InfoReady</i>
December 31, 2027	Final Project Report due

Procedures

Letter of Intent Guidelines (required)

A Letter of Intent indicating the applicant’s desire to participate in the Emerge: program is a required step in the Emerge: proposal and award process.

The **one-page** Letter of Intent will consist of the following information:

- Name of PI and Key Personnel
- General topic and focus of the Emerge: project being proposed
- Potential Significance and Impact
- Estimated cost of project

Letters of Intent must be submitted as an attachment through the TAMU-CEHD InfoReady submission portal (tamu-ehd.infoready4.com) no later than the date and time stated in the Key Dates section of this RFA.



Formatting Requirements

To ensure that special characters and formatting are accurately reproduced, we strongly recommend that PIs carefully examine all files that have been converted to pdf format prior to submission. Letters of Intent should adhere to the following formatting: **paper size 8.5"x11", one-inch margins on all sides, single-spaced, font size 12-point, Times New Roman.**

Submission

All applications must be submitted as a single pdf document through the TAMU-EHD InfoReady submission portal (tamu-ehd.infoready4.com). Letters of Intent must be submitted no later than the date and time stated in the Key Dates section of this announcement to be eligible for review. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Selection for Full Proposal

Upon review of the received LOIs, the selected researchers will be invited to submit a full proposal. Guidelines for the full Emerge: proposal will be provided at that time.

Evaluative Criteria

The proposals will be scored using the below criteria:

- 1) Approach – the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- 2) Significance and Innovation – the proposed research project will result in a significant contribution in the area of research or teaching and do so in a novel way.
- 3) Investigator – the individual and/or combined experience and expertise of the research team and whether they demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the proposed research work on time and on budget.
- 4) Other Considerations:
 - a. Student Involvement – the potential for undergraduate and/or graduate students to experience a unique educational experience through participation in the proposed project.
 - b. Sustainability – the availability of any additional or complementary funding that can be leveraged to enhance the outcomes produced by Emerge: program funding.
 - c. Compliance – discuss the use of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biosafety, etc. in the proposed research.
- 5) The quality of the proposal's writing and construction.

Questions should be directed to CEHDresearch@tamu.edu. The Research Enterprise & Outreach Office is available to provide any assistance needed with the development of Emerge: grant proposals.

Open Office Hours with REO

Faculty are welcome to stop by the CEHD Research Enterprise & Outreach office to discuss their research topics and proposal planning at any time.