OpenSciEd Research Seed Funding Opportunity
FAQ

Q: Can pilot studies be considered for funding?
A: Yes, studies that aim to gather preliminary evidence of the promise of effectiveness of an intervention are appropriate for this opportunity.

Q: How should a team represent themselves vs. a single PI in the application?
A: A single PI/lead should submit the application. If selected, the seed money will be given to this individual's institution. There is a section in the online application to name collaborators. The PI/lead would be responsible for giving the funds to the collaborators accordingly.

Q: The review process will prioritize early career scholars. Can one member of a team be early career, while others in the team, or the lead, are more established?
A: We will prioritize applications where the PI / lead is an early career scholar. It is fine for an early career applicant to engage collaborators who have a more established track record of funding. These collaborators should be named in the appropriate section of the application.

Q: How often will Digital Promise meet with seed funding teams?
A: Meeting frequency will depend on the type of support needed by the teams. Early in the seed grant period, teams will articulate an activity timeline, including meetings with Digital Promise. A typical timeline could involve monthly meetings, for example.

Q: OpenSciEd has existing materials. Could we use this seed funding to develop new materials to add to the collection?
A: Officially sanctioned OpenSciEd materials are created by specific development consortia selected by OpenSciEd. These materials are Creative Commons licensed. A project that adapts these open materials for a particular purpose or context is appropriate for this opportunity.

Q: At our institution, only tenure-track professors can be PIs. As a research professor who would lead the work, I would have to have another professor serve as PI. Am I eligible for an award?
A: Yes, we will consider applications from scholars whose institutions do not allow them to be PIs, as long as the applicant will lead the work. There is a section in the online application where this arrangement can be elaborated. Contact Kevin McElhaney (kmcelhaney@digitalpromise.org) with specific questions about your eligibility if you are unsure whether you meet the criteria.

Q: Are graduate students eligible to apply?
A: In our experience, given their responsibilities to degree completion, graduate students are not well positioned to lead grant projects of $250,000 or more. Contact Kevin McElhaney (kmcelhaney@digitalpromise.org) with specific questions about your eligibility.

Q: I am fully supported by soft money. Can I use some of the seed money toward my own salary?
A: Yes, the funds may be used to support salary incurred by time spent creating and advancing the proposal concept toward submission.

Q: Is there a specific format required for the 1000-word concept paper?
A: No. We have purposely left the format open ended so that it does not constrain applicants in their thinking or expression of ideas. Any format that addresses the elements and criteria described in the [Request for Applications](#) is acceptable.

Q: Will seed fund awards be subject to indirect costs?
A: Yes, the awards will have a 15% cap on indirect costs corresponding to Digital Promise's OpenSciEd Research Agenda project grant. We do not expect this to be problematic for most applicants' institutions. Should an applicant selected for an award be unable to accept it because of the indirect cost cap, Digital Promise is willing to discuss alternate ways to structure the grant.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of applications from a single institution?
A: No. Multiple investigators from the same institution are free to submit separate applications.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of application from a single investigator?
A: Yes. An investigator or collaborator should lead or be part of only one application.

Updated 12/9/2021