

# BIIG Collaborations

Building Innovative Interdisciplinary Groups and Collaborations

**Fiscal Year 2024**

**BIIG Start Awards**

***Request for Applications***

Ohio State's Office of Knowledge Enterprise (OKE) wants to help you further develop interdisciplinary research collaborations that are poised for future funding success! Our BIIG Collaborations program includes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 BIIG Start Award to support emerging teams with seed funding for team development activities and provide access to team science and research development resources.

## Fast Facts

### ***Who?***

Teams of 3+ Ohio State faculty from 2+ departments or centers with distinct disciplines (see eligibility below) who have previously attended FY24 BIIG Collaboration events.

### ***What?***

Up to \$10,000 (most awards will be in the \$3,000-\$7,000 range) for team development activities per award (approximately 5 awards will be funded in FY2024 across all BIIG Collaborations topics). Funds will be valid for one year from the date of initial fund transfer.

### ***When?***

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis from December 1, 2023 – May 15, 2024. Submissions will be accepted within this timeframe as long as budget allows.

### ***Questions?***

Contact Kellie Gross, [gross.735@osu.edu](mailto:gross.735@osu.edu)

## Program Description

The OKE **Building Innovative Interdisciplinary Groups and Collaborations (BIIG Collaborations)** program helps develop and nurture interdisciplinary teams that are well positioned to tackle complex societal challenges. BIIG Collaborations is focused on helping faculty across the university overcome research silos and conquer barriers to interdisciplinary research by facilitating connections around emergent thematic areas and fostering team development through a team science approach. Our goal is to provide Ohio State faculty with the resources and support they need to establish and cultivate collaborations across disciplines, engage in exploring innovative research questions that can only be examined when diverse talents are brought together, and **think BIIG**.

The BIIG Start Award is a BIIG Collaborations initiative that supports you in exploring exciting ideas for interdisciplinary collaboration and prepares your team to launch novel research agendas positioned for future extramural funding. Awarded teams will receive up to \$10,000 (most awards will be in the \$3,000-\$7,000 range) to fund strategic activities that will support the development of their team, project, and pursuit of future funding. The FY2024 funding cycle supports newly-forming interdisciplinary teams in high-priority research areas that are highlighted in the BIIG Collaboration initiatives for FY2024.

## Eligibility

Teams must consist of a minimum of 3 Ohio State faculty members representing at least 2 different departments/centers with distinct disciplines. The lead PI must be an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor tenure track faculty, equivalent-rank research faculty, or clinical/practice-track faculty member engaged in research. Co-Investigators can be Ohio State faculty, research staff, or post-docs. At least two members of the team must have attended at least two of the BIIG Collaborations events. Researchers can apply as part of more than one team but may only serve as lead PI on one application.

## Funding

BIIG Start Awards will provide up to \$10,000 (most awards will be in the \$3,000-\$7,000 range) per team for a 12-month performance period. We estimate that approximately five teams will be selected this fiscal year.

Allowable costs: Team planning meetings, seminar/workshop speakers/facilitators, pilot data collection, team science-based assessments/evaluations, grant writing support/review, or other team development activities as specified in team proposal.

Non-allowable costs: Faculty salary support, F&A costs, equipment purchases, project team travel, or work that is already supported by university or federal funds. If travel costs are needed, OKE has strategic travel funds available that support 50% of the travel, not to exceed \$1,500. More information about those funds can be found here: <https://erik.osu.edu/oke-strategic-research-travel-program>

## Key dates

- RFA opens: December 1, 2023
- RFA closes: May 15, 2024
- Awards determination: Within one month of application submission

## Application components and submission

### Title page (1 page):

- Project title
- Emergent research area addressed (BIIG Collaboration theme)
- Names of PI and team members (include title, college and unit affiliation, area of expertise)

### Project narrative (2 pages):

- Describe the research area within the selected emergent research topic that your team will explore and its significance.
- Describe the need for an interdisciplinary solution to the selected research area.
- Describe the potential societal and/or scientific impact of the team's research focus.
- Briefly describe the experience and expertise of the proposed team members as it relates to the selected research area.
- Describe all planned activities and how they will support team development and position the team for additional internal funding or extramural research funding
- Provide a timeline of planned activities, including milestones
- References may be included and do not count towards the page limit

### Budget and budget justification (1 page)

An application template can be downloaded on our website ([erik.osu.edu/biig-awards](http://erik.osu.edu/biig-awards)). Applications should be submitted as a single pdf file via our submission form at the following link:

[https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1ZE4Ojccvrc6Gy](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZE4Ojccvrc6Gy).

## Evaluation process and criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a panel of OKE staff. Scores will be based on the extent to which proposals meet the following criteria:

1. Research area: Has scientific merit and significance; is innovative; demonstrates need for further study; warrants an interdisciplinary team approach
2. Planned activities: Are tailored to the team's unique needs for team and project development; build team vision, understanding, and commitment; improves the team's position for future funding opportunities; can be accomplished in the one-year project period
3. Team: Is comprised of interdisciplinary researchers with distinct areas of expertise; researcher backgrounds are sufficiently diverse to generate innovative approaches within the proposed research area; all team members are adequately integrated into the planned team formation activities
4. Budget: Is justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed activities

## Program requirements

Over the 12-month award, teams are required to participate in the activities they propose and meet with members of OKE approximately 6 months after receiving their award to check in on progress. Within 30 days after the project end date, teams are required to submit a budget expenditure report and a ~2-page final report, describing the team vision, research questions, team roles and responsibilities, potential funding opportunities, and planned next steps. A final report template and additional details will be provided.

For questions, please contact OKE Talent and Team Development Specialist, Kellie Gross  
([gross.735@osu.edu](mailto:gross.735@osu.edu))