



Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) The Ohio State Discovery Themes

2017-2018 Linkage and Leverage Grants Request for Proposals

Introduction

The [Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation \(InFACT\)](#) is a Discovery Theme investment at The Ohio State University that is setting the strategic direction for the University's support of food systems that are sustainable, defined as achieving a balance of ecology, economy, technology, and culture to promote the overall well-being of people, animals and the natural environment.

Our vision is a world in which agriculture and food systems are productive, resilient, sustainable and just, with healthy environmental resources and nourishing food readily available to all.¹

InFACT will achieve this by establishing The Ohio State University as a worldwide leader in developing conceptual models, scientific discovery, practical examples, and policy to improve the healthy functioning of agroecosystems, providing nutritious food for all. We will maintain a dynamic relation between local innovation and global engagement by balancing focused interdisciplinary research with a broad array of statewide, national and international public and private-sector partnerships.

InFACT will position Ohio State as a flagship for accelerating transformative food system models, as an incubator for new food "agri-cultures" at home, and as a recognized leader and reliable partner in the

¹ InFACT's full strategic plan will be published online soon, check discovery.osu.edu/infact.

global arena. More than 100 distinguished faculty members from across Ohio State currently collaborate on work toward this compelling vision.

Through strategic grants that maximize **Linkage** and **Leverage**, InFACT will continue to build strengths in the following areas:

- Climate, environment, technology and agroecosystems
- Local to global engagements to improve food security
- New food economies
- Campus food cultures and education

Linkage strives for building connections among Ohio State faculty, students, staff and external partners engaged directly with InFACT. We aim to fund grants that will build new networks among these potential partners, and especially fund projects that will engage new faculty hired through InFACT and other Discovery Themes initiatives.

Leverage means using InFACT funds in ways that bring new resources to fuel the initiative. We aim to fund projects that lead directly to new grants, gifts, contracts, and/or access to other forms of capital (natural, built, social, in addition to financial) in support of InFACT's work to improve food security.

Projects selected will be those that we judge to do the best job of linkage and leverage and that would provide a balanced portfolio of the very best examples of work with potential to transform the culture, science and technology of agriculture and food systems toward resilient, sustainable, just and equitable food security.

InFACT aims to fund projects that are replicable with results that can be applied at various scales and locations. For example, proposals for international work should address how the results may be relevant in Ohio, and proposals focused on Ohio communities should explain how the results may be applicable more broadly in other states and nations.

Following are some of the **key objectives and activities** anticipated for Linkage and Leverage grant support during the coming year. However, proposals on any topic or activity that furthers the InFACT vision and accomplishes linkage and leverage will be considered.

- **Research** that combines the interests and capabilities of current faculty with [new InFACT supported hires](#) and/or that focuses on key InFACT priority areas². Proposals are welcome in any area relevant to resilient and sustainable food security. Two areas in particular that appear to be emerging opportunities are:
 - Short food supply chain efficiency, safety, and profitability – in both the US and abroad, local and regional supply chains present unique challenges for logistics, energy

² Ibid.

efficiency, food safety, affordable and equitable access, and producer livelihoods. Projects are especially encouraged that unite our research and education capacity with partners seeking value in short supply chains.

- Agricultural landscape diversification in the effort to meet our mission of transforming the way food is grown, processed and distributed through the promotion of vibrant, sustainable and resilient agricultural landscapes that place food at the center of just and vital communities in Ohio and beyond.
- **AgriCultural imagination/feeding souls** in the sense of creative and critical projects that enhance our capacity to envision transformations of food and agriculture, including the re-formation of indigenous and migrant knowledges, agriculture as placemaking, food ethics, abundance and hunger, emergent sociabilities, food as media, multi-sited and pluri-temporal engagements.
- Projects that advance the **cultural and institutional transformations** envisioned by our strategic plan³ are particularly encouraged. Examples could include: building trust, respect, and mutual partnerships between University and community collaborators; addressing structures and dynamics of power and privilege within the University and between the University and community stakeholders; better integrating science/technology, arts/humanities, and local/experiential knowledge; and investing in new physical infrastructure to create distributed food production and processing capacity across Ohio to support a more resilient and equitable food system.
- **Curriculum assessment** and development in the area of sustainability and resilience in general and with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches that include culture and human values, modeling, assessment, engineering, and management related to food security.
- **Foundations of more sustainable, resilient and just food security**, including social, cultural, historical, moral and/or ethical factors that have influenced our food systems over time, and the many forms of capital (human, social, natural, built, financial, etc.) upon which they depend.
- **Communication** modes and strategies for raising awareness and public discourse related to InFACT including issues such as food insecurity, either domestically or globally, and its socioeconomic, demographic, geographic and cultural dimensions; the right to food and food sovereignty; points of controversy and consensus in food production, distribution, processing and preparation; diet, health, behavior and public policy; new opportunities for improving food culture, production, precision agriculture technologies and access.

³ Ibid.

- **Workshops, conferences, symposia, gatherings, demonstration spaces** that provide faculty, staff, students and partners with an opportunity to collaboratively develop and test transdisciplinary theories and models; research, learning and outreach agendas; and proposals for extramural support.

General Information

We will offer three grant cycles during the 2017-2018 academic year. Grant proposals received by the following deadlines will be considered for funding, subject to the availability of remaining uncommitted funds:

- October 31, 2017
- January 31, 2018
- April 30, 2018

Proposals and questions regarding the program should be emailed to Nicole Pierron Rasul (pierronrasul.1@osu.edu), InFACT Program Coordinator.

If a proposal is rejected, the team is permitted to resubmit the proposal during a successive grant cycle, provided that the team has refined the proposal taking into consideration the recommendations offered by the InFACT grant review committee and executive committee during the previous grant review cycle.

Scope of Projects

Grants will support teams of University collaborators and their external partners who engage in any strategic activities that are judged to advance the linkage and leverage goals, the vision, and especially the key objectives and activities described above (see Introduction).

Eligibility

Teams of faculty, staff, students, and external partners may apply, with one member of the team identified as the project director. If a project director does not hold an OSU appointment (faculty or staff), they must have an OSU faculty or staff member as a co-director, and that person will be responsible for fiscal management of the grant.

Team members' roles and responsibilities must be described in detail, and each team member must sign indicating their willingness to accept those roles and responsibilities and COI disclosure. If grant funding is received, all team members must complete the [InFACT affiliates form](#) and will be listed on the [InFACT website](#) as a partner.

The size and configuration of the teams is open, but we strongly encourage diverse teams with participation from multiple OSU departments and colleges as well as external institutions and private and public sector organizations to facilitate the development of new network connections among faculty, students and partners.

Funding Available

Multiple grant awards will be available for the 2017-2018 academic year. The amount of funding for a single award may vary from a minimum of \$1,500 to a maximum of \$35,000. We expect a total of \$250,000 to be available via InFACT, and we expect this to be leveraged by matching from other sources as described below.

Grant Duration

Grants will be issued for a period of up to one year. Time extension requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Use of Funds

There are no restrictions on use of funds, except that funds may not be used for capital improvements.

Matching

Matching funds or in-kind support are not required, particularly for small awards that accomplish significant linkage. However, matching will be part of the evaluation of proposals, and the expectation for matching will increase with the size of the award. Matching funds are encouraged from external or internal partners, which could include other [Discovery Theme initiative](#) seed grant programs, the [Office of Energy and the Environment](#), [Connect and Collaborate grants](#), new faculty startup funds, colleges and departments, interdisciplinary program funds, or funding from external sources.

In-kind matching must be described thoroughly in the budget justification and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Proposal teams are required to identify future extramural resources and opportunities as part of their plan to achieve leverage and sustain projects beyond the 2017-2018 academic year.

Projects that are contingent upon receiving matching resources to be undertaken may be rejected. Our program aims to fund seed grants, or projects or ideas in their initial stages. We do not aim to fund projects as part of the match for a larger grant that has been identified prior to receiving Linkage and Leverage funding.

Proposal Format

Teams must submit a proposal, typed in 12-point font with 1-inch margins to ensure readability. The file must be submitted as a PDF document. The proposal narrative may not exceed 6 pages in length, including charts, tables and graphics, and may be shorter for smaller grants.

The narrative must document a compelling challenge and describe how the team resources will be applied to address this challenge and create linkage and leverage toward transformational progress in food security to meet InFACT's strategic goals.⁴ Narratives should include:

- Descriptive Proposal Title
- Lay Summary (250 character maximum): Brief and written for a general audience, to be published on the InFACT web page if the proposal is funded.⁵
- Concept and Background: Document the significance of the compelling challenge or research question, including an overview of existing research and literature on the topic.
- Rationale: Describe how the project will address the challenge or research question, engage OSU participants and partners, leverage new resources, and produce useful results.
- Objectives, Approach, and Expected Results: Describe specifically the project objectives, how the team plans to accomplish those objectives, the expected deliverable outputs, and the expected short and long-term outcomes and impacts (in narrative or logic model format).

In addition to the proposal narrative, teams must provide the following as attachments. These components will not be considered part of the 6 page proposal narrative outlined above:

- Attachment A: Team listing with roles, responsibilities and signatures. In the document, describe the qualifications of the key team members, the capacity of the team to succeed, and how the project will achieve new linkage among the team members.
- Attachment B: Budget form. In addition to the budget form, provide a detailed explanation of why the requested amount of funds are needed to accomplish the project objectives for each line in the budget, and the source of any matching resources that have been committed to complete the project. Also include information on leverage for the project. Describe how the proposed project will result in new financial or other capital to continue the work and create a return on the InFACT investment.

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ For examples of past Linkage and Leverage grants, see <https://discovery.osu.edu/focus-areas/infact/infact-seed-grants.html>

- Concept and Rationale: Potential to create transformational change in food security and/or address key priorities described above.⁶
- Objectives, Approach, and Expected Results: Likelihood of team success in meeting the project objectives; achieving substantial benefits.
- Linkage and Team Qualifications: Capacity to perform effectively; breadth and diversity in engagement of partners.
- Leverage: Potential to acquire both matching resources for the work proposed and future extramural resources to sustain and build on the project.

Proposal teams will be notified within six (6) weeks of submission whether their proposal has been accepted for funding.

Midterm Review

Grantees will receive 60% of the funds at the start of the project and the remaining 40% of the funds after providing a satisfactory midterm progress report. A report template will be provided. The report should be written for a general audience and be suitable for publicizing InFACT activity via online and print media.

Final Project Report

Within four (4) weeks of the completion of the project, grantees must submit a final report. A report template will be provided. The report should be written for a general audience and be suitable for publicizing InFACT activity via online and print media. If the final report has not been submitted on time, none of the participants will be eligible to submit a new grant proposal until the report has been submitted.

Communications Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to help grant teams publicize InFACT funded projects:

- Terminology: In all materials (website, news releases, project documents, etc.), describe funding as “a grant from The Ohio State University’s Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT), a Discovery Themes program. Learn more at discovery.osu.edu/infact”
- Logo: Grant teams are welcome to use the InFACT logo on materials about their projects. Please contact Nicole Pierron Rasul (pierronrasul.1@osu.edu), InFACT Program Coordinator, to obtain a copy of the logo. Do not stretch, recolor or separate elements of the logo. The logo should only be used in reference to the funded project with appropriate acknowledgment.
- Sharing coverage: Please share any media coverage a project receives by emailing Nicole Pierron Rasul (pierronrasul.1@osu.edu), InFACT Program Coordinator. If grant teams post about

⁶ InFACT’s full strategic plan will be published online soon, check discovery.osu.edu/infact.

projects in social media, please tag InFACT (Twitter: @OhioStateInFACT, Facebook: Food & AgriCultural Transformation at Ohio State).

Important Dates

With the exception of submission deadlines, all dates are approximate.

Grant Cycle 1	
Submission Deadline	10/31/17
Review Committee Meeting	11/21/17
Executive Committee Vote	12/5/17
Response to Proposal Team	12/12/17
Funds Dispersed (60%)	01/01/18
Midterm Report Due	06/30/18
Funds Dispersed (40%)	07/15/18
Final Report Due	01/31/19
Grant Cycle 2	
Submission Deadline	01/31/18
Review Committee Meeting	02/21/18
Executive Committee Vote	03/06/18
Response to Proposal Team	03/14/18
Funds Dispersed (60%)	04/01/18
Midterm Report Due	09/30/18
Funds Dispersed (40%)	10/15/18
Final Report Due	04/30/19
Grant Cycle 3	
Submission Deadline	04/30/18
Review Committee Meeting	05/21/18
Executive Committee Vote	06/05/18
Response to Proposal Team	06/11/18
Funds Dispersed (60%)	07/01/18
Midterm Report Due	12/31/18
Funds Dispersed (40%)	01/15/19
Final Report Due	07/31/19

Attachment A: InFACT 2017-2018 Linkage and Leverage Grant Team List

Proposal Title:

List the team members, their roles and responsibilities. Please also include team member signatures. After the team listing, in narrative, describe the capacity of the team to succeed, and how the project will achieve new linkage among the team members.

Team members, affiliations, email addresses	Roles, responsibilities, signature
PI, team lead:	

(Add rows as needed)

Attachment B: InFACT 2017-2018 Linkage and Leverage Grant Budget Page

Proposal Title:

After the budget table, provide a detailed explanation of why the requested amount of funds are needed to accomplish the project objectives for each line in the budget, and the source of any matching resources that have been committed and are needed to complete the project. Also after the budget form, in narrative, include information on leverage for the project. Describe how the proposed project will result in new financial or other capital to continue the work and create a return on the InFACT investment.

Item (and brief description)	Requested Funds	Matching Support
A. Salaries		
B. Fringes		
C. Supplies		
D. Equipment		
E. Outreach		
F. Travel		
G. Services		
H. Other		
Totals	(\$35,000 Maximum)	