

# STRATEGIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES PLAN (SRPP) FY 2026 Request for Applications



## VCU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Fund

**Purpose:** The VCU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Fund (AHSS) supports, facilitates and enhances the creation, production and dissemination of arts, humanities and social sciences research and creative activity at any stage of development, including initial or mid-stage project development, presentation or performance, final publication, or preliminary results for which external grant applications could be based.

### VCU AHSS Grant At-A-Glance *(additional details below)*

<b>Proposal Deadline</b>	February 13, 2026
<b>Award Start Date and Project Period</b>	May 15, 2026 (12 months)
<b>Award Ceiling</b>	Up to \$10,000, no unit cost share
<b>Program Category</b>	Pilot/small project funds for part of a larger project
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single Principal Investigator (PI) and Collaborating Investigators (Co-PIs) are encouraged to apply.</li> <li>• Additional PI and Co-PI eligibility factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ PIs and Co-PIs must be full-time VCU faculty members.</li> <li>◦ PIs and Co-PIs may be of any rank or tenure status.</li> <li>◦ PIs and Co-PIs with <u>active</u> AHSS awards at the time of proposal submission <b>are ineligible</b> to apply as a PI or Co-PI on an additional AHSS proposal during this funding cycle</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Projects must demonstrate alignment with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ One or more of the initiatives identified in the <a href="#">VCU Strategic Research Priorities Plan</a>, with specific initiative goal(s) and objective(s) identified.</li> <li>◦ One of <a href="#">VCU's Research Impact Clusters</a>.</li> <li>◦ Federal and/or Commonwealth of Virginia research priorities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Faculty who receive a grant from the AHSS fund as either PI or Co-PI cannot serve as PI or Co-PI on future submissions to the AHSS Fund until three years have elapsed from the end date of their most recent award.</li> </ul>

**Full proposal deadline:** Application packages must be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities here: [Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant \(OP00000857\)](#) no later than **5 p.m. (EST), Friday, February 13, 2026**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt. **Applications cannot be accepted after the deadline for any reason.**

## SRPP FY 2026 AHSS RFA

**Format:** Applications must use [this template](#). Text must be single-spaced, Arial, 11-point (minimum) font. The template margins should not be altered. Proposals not following the format requirements will be returned without review. Once complete, **the template and any supporting documents must be converted to a single PDF file for upload.**

**Forms for submission:**

- [AHSS application](#)
- [Biosketch template](#)

**Budget guidelines:** All requested costs directly related to the project should be listed and justified in the budget section of the AHSS Application Template. Facilities and administrative (F&A or indirect) costs are not allowed. **Budgets require approval from applicable chairs (or their designees) and deans before submission in RAMS-SPOT. Please consult with your department chair (or their designees) in advance and allow adequate time for approval routing.** See the Budgeting Guide below for additional information about eligible and ineligible costs.

### VCU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant Budgeting Guide

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS
Salary support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary support, <b><u>including fringe benefits</u></b>, for PI(s) and Co-PIs, <b>collectively not to exceed</b> 20% of the total project budget. (i.e., if the total project budget is \$10,000, the collective PI/Co-PI salaries and fringe cannot exceed \$2,000 total)</li> <li>Salary support, including fringe benefits, for project staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary support for administrative personnel and/or 12-month UAP.</li> <li>Salary support for external faculty.</li> </ul>
Equipment and supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research/project supplies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office equipment and supplies (including faculty computers, laptops, and tablets, unless strictly related to the project).</li> </ul>
Student costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hourly compensation for undergraduate, graduate/postdoctoral students and trainees, when justified and directly supporting project goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition</li> </ul>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential travel related to the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel not strictly related to the project.</li> </ul>
Other costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human research participant honorarium</li> <li>Facility fees should be shared</li> <li>Laboratory costs and supplies</li> <li>Consultant costs</li> <li>Equipment/technology critical to the project. (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification.)</li> <li>Publication fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional organization dues or membership fees.</li> <li>Sub-contracts to institutions or salary support for individuals external to VCU.</li> <li>Pre-award costs.</li> </ul>

## SRPP FY 2026 AHSS RFA

**Review process:** The submission, review, and funding process are coordinated by the Office of Research and Innovation. 1) Applications will be reviewed and scored by faculty members from across the University. Subject matter experts will be selected whenever possible. 2) Recommendations from the review panel will then be submitted to the Research Deans Advisory Council (ReDAC) for ranking and recommendation. 3) Recommendations from ReDAC will be forwarded to the VPRI for final selection. Review feedback will be sent to all applicants.

Review criteria include:

- Merit, including scholarly merit, impact on the field of study, and feasibility (budget and timeline)
- Broader impacts, including translational potential, potential for public impact and return on investment potential. These can include, but are not limited to books, publications, conference presentations and/or external funding submissions.
- Responsiveness to (a) one or more Initiatives under the [VCU Strategic Research Priorities Plan initiative\(s\)](#), (b) one of [VCU's Research Impact Clusters](#), and (c) research must align with Federal and/or Commonwealth of Virginia research priorities. Research should demonstrate potential for a project to further the specific initiative goals and objectives identified.
- PI(s) preparedness. Where applicable, team preparedness, transdisciplinary qualities, and diversity (meaningful participation of trainees, students and early-stage investigators as well as cross-campus collaboration).

**Award and reporting process:** The project start date is May 15, 2026 and project end date is May 14, 2027. Funds will be released at the time of the award. A final project report including a summary of work completed, and progress on sustainability plans will be required 45 days after the project end date. The final report will be two parts, which will be submitted via RAMS-SPOT. These include an action in RAMS-SPOT and include a PDF attachment. Requests for final reports will be available within one month of project completion and will allow 45 days for submission.

### **Additional requirements for all Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Fund awards:**

- Projects are required to adhere to all VCU research-related policies, procedures, and compliance approvals, including intellectual property, IRB, IACUC, etc.
- All publications, presentations, etc., resulting from the project must acknowledge financial support from the VCU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, as appropriate. Please provide DOIs or other standard identifiers in project progress reports.
- Projects are expected to be completed within the specified budget period. Extension requests may be justifiable under limited circumstances following a request made to the Fund Manager at [OVPRIfunds@vcu.edu](mailto:OVPRIfunds@vcu.edu).
- In support of VCU's culture of collaboration, PIs and Co-PIs who have been awarded funding will be asked to serve as subject matter expert peer reviewers for future submission cycles throughout the duration of their project, as needed.

**Questions:** Please direct all questions to [ovprifunds@vcu.edu](mailto:ovprifunds@vcu.edu).