

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



VCU Momentum Fund

Purpose: The **VCU Momentum Fund** promotes impactful interdisciplinary research by providing multi-principal investigator research teams with support to prepare and submit competitive, external, multicomponent large-scale proposals. Examples include, but are not limited to, large funding opportunities from federal agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health P- or U-series mechanisms, National Science Foundation Gen4 Engineering Research Centers, NSF Science and Technology Centers, Department of Energy's Energy Frontier Research Centers,) foundations (e.g. Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and MacArthur Foundation), or industry partners.

VCU Momentum Fund At-A-Glance (additional details below)

Full Proposal Deadline	February 13, 2026
Award Start Date and Project Period	June 30, 2026 - June 29, 2028 (24 months)
Award Ceiling	Up to \$225,000, no unit cost share
Funds Release	Funds are released at the time of award.
Program Category	Large-scale center and initiative planning
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of three VCU PIs required• Additional PI and Co-PI eligibility factors:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Multiple PIs, from at least two different schools/colleges, encouraged, but not required.○ PIs may be any <u>full-time, primary appointment</u> VCU faculty, research faculty or clinician researcher regardless of rank or tenure status, whose appointments are approved by the dean of their college or school. Clinician researchers must have a university faculty appointment to serve as a PI.○ Staff without affiliate college/school faculty appointments are not eligible to be a PI.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inclusive research teams encompassing meaningful participation of all members are strongly encouraged, including, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students. • Projects must demonstrate alignment with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One or more of the initiatives identified in the VCU Strategic Research Priorities Plan, with specific initiative goal(s) and objective(s) identified. ○ One of VCU's Research Impact Clusters. ○ Federal and/or Commonwealth of Virginia research priorities • Cancer-focused proposals are not eligible for this program, as a funding program is already provided for these projects. Cancer-focused proposals should be submitted to the Massey Cancer Center Team Science Pilot Award internal funding opportunity. • <u>External subawards are not allowed</u>. PIs external to VCU may be included but <u>cannot</u> be paid via Momentum or other OVPRI internal funds. • Faculty who receive a grant from the VCU Momentum Fund as either PI or Co-PI cannot serve as PI or Co-PI on future submissions to the Momentum Fund until three years have elapsed from the end date of their most recent award. •
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Proposal deadline: Application packages should be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities here: [VCU Momentum Grant \(OP00000859\)](#) no later than **5 p.m. (EST) on Friday, February 13, 2026**. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt. **Applications cannot be accepted after the deadline for any reason.**

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:

- [VCU Momentum Application](#)
- [Biosketch Form](#)
- **Dean's Letter of Support from all PI and Co-PIs listed. (No specific format required)**

Budget guidelines: All requested costs directly related to the project should be listed and justified in the budget section of the Momentum 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 ahead of time and allow adequate time for approval routing.** See the Budgeting Guide below for additional information about eligible and ineligible costs.

VCU Momentum Fund Budgeting Guide

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS
Salary support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research project personnel (excluding PIs and Co-PIs): Salary support, including fringe benefits, not to exceed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI and Co-PI salary support, <u>including fringe benefits</u>, is generally not

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	<u>20% of the total project costs</u> (i.e., if the total project budget is \$225,000, the collective research personnel salaries and fringe cannot exceed \$56,250 total)	allowable for PIs and Co-PIs (with the exception of 9 month faculty appointments - not to exceed 20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary support for administrative personnel and/or 12-month UAP. • Salary support for external faculty.
Equipment and supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research/project supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office equipment and supplies (including faculty computers, laptops, and tablets unless strictly related to project).
Student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hourly compensation for undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral, for direct project work, with a detailed justification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential travel related to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel not strictly related to the project.
Other costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human research participant remuneration • Shared facility fees • Laboratory costs and supplies • Consultant costs • Equipment/technology critical to the project. (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification.) • Publication fees in support of extramural funding application based upon this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional organization dues or membership fees. • Sub-contracts to institutions or salary support for individuals external to VCU. • Pre-award costs.

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, Provost, and VP for Health Sciences 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 and potential for high return on investment.
- 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

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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).
- Additional school/college criteria as relevant.

Award and reporting process: The project start date is June 30, 2026 and the award period is 24 months. Funds will be released at the time of 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 VCU Momentum Fund awards:

- Project PIs must apply for the external grant opportunity identified and linked in the project plan before the end of the project period.
- Projects are required to adhere to all VCU research-related policies, procedures, and compliance approvals, including COI, intellectual property, IRB, IACUC, etc.
- All publications, presentations, etc., resulting from the project must acknowledge financial support from the VCU Momentum Fund. Please provide DOIs or other standard identifiers in the final project report.
- 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.
- In support of VCU's culture of collaboration, PIs and Co-PI who have been awarded funding are expected 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.