January 26, 2026

To: Assistant Professors Approaching tenure

From: Padma Rangarajan, Chair
         Committee on Research

Re: Call for 2026-2027 Regents' Faculty Development (RFD)

Overview:

Submission Deadline	**April 10, 2026** - 5:00pm (No late applications considered)
Submission Link	https://senate.ucr.edu/rsenate/grants
Award Amount	Up to $9000 (Variable based on budget availability)
Report Deadline	September 1, 2028
Report Link	https://senate.ucr.edu/rsenate/grants/reports
Support Email	travis.gutierrez@ucr.edu , senate@ucr.edu

Purpose & Scope:

The Regents' Faculty Development (RFD) award is funded by the Office of the President to support Assistant Professors who are approaching tenure.
- Allowable Expenses:
    - Research assistance, supplies, and equipment.
    - Research-related travel and travel to professional meetings.
    - Pedagogical workshops or seminars to improve teaching skills.
    - Sabbatical Supplement: Can be used to supplement a partial-salary sabbatical leave (up to 33% for one of two quarters).
- Prohibited Expenses: Course buy-outs, unpaid leave periods, or summer salary (for faculty paid on an academic year basis).

Eligibility:
- Open to Assistant Professors who anticipate submitting their tenure files within the next two years
- One Time Rule: This grant can only be received once

Guidelines:

Please note the following guidelines:

- Funding Expiration: Funds must be spent within two fiscal years.
  - Return of funds: Any funds remaining after June 30, 2028 must be returned if not spent within that timeframe.
- Multiple Applications: You may apply for both Omnibus and RFD grants simultaneously.
  - Restriction: If you receive a RFD award of $5,000 or more, your Omnibus application will not be funded.
- Report Requirement: A report on the use of funds and research outcomes is required.
  - Failure to report makes you ineligible for future Senate funds.

Application Requirements:

The application must consist of the following three parts:

– Applications should be written for a general audience –

1. **CV:** An abbreviated (two-page) current curriculum vitae.
2. **Proposal Narrative**: (Max 3 pages)
   Format: Single-spaced, minimum 11-point font, 1-inch margins
   a. Indicate how proposed activities relate to your current and planned research program.
   b. Explain the anticipated contribution to your field of research.
   c. Bibliography reference must be included within the 3-page limit.
3. **Budget:** One-page budget and budget justification

Applications that DO NOT meet the length and formatting instructions will not be considered.
*Note: Letter of support is no longer required

Review & Scoring Criteria:

Applications are randomly assigned and reviewed by two committee members from different disciplines (e.g., a CHASS member may review a BCOE application).

Criteria	Points	Key Question
Clarity & Accessibility	1-5	Is it written for a general audience? Can an educated non-specialist understand what will be done and why it matters?

		● 5: crystal clear objectives + plain-language rationale; minimal jargon; deliverables stated ● 3: mostly clear but some jargon/vagueness ● 1: hard to follow; unclear goals
Plan & Feasibility	1-5	Is there a credible, bounded plan likely to succeed with the stated timeline? ● 5: concrete steps + data/participants access + basic analysis plan + key risks noted ● 3: plan plausible but missing a piece (access, timeline, analysis, risks) ● 1: shortcomings in plan, unclear next steps
Seed Value	1-5	Will this grant likely produce a concrete next milestone? ● 5: quantifies the impact of funds in their area ● 3: next step mentioned but not well specified ● 1: unclear how funds impact research
Total Score	/30	Combined score from two reviewers (max 15/reviewer)

Reporting:

Recipients are required to submit a brief report describing the research accomplishments, publications, grants/fellowships, and/or other benefits obtained with the support of the grant including the amounts of any extramural funding the award facilitated. Reports are essential for the committee to justify future intramural funding.

● Note: Reporting is now facilitated by R'Senate Report Dashboard (January - 2026)

Funding Statistics: https://senate.ucr.edu/grants/funding_statistics