



# Research Enhancement Awards (REA) Program

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL GUIDELINES 2026

### PURPOSE

The SU-RDI Research Enhancement Awards (REA) Program provides seed funding for faculty and students at Southern University and A&M College (SUBR), Baton Rouge, LA. The program is designed to support:

- Emerging researchers, and
- Established researchers who wish to pursue new research directions.

REA funds are intended to help develop projects and collaborations that position SU researchers to compete more effectively for federal research funding, particularly in the aerospace R&D, Health Science and Environmental policy marketplace.

The REA Program is supported by the SU-RDI award through U.S. Department of Education Research Development and Infrastructure funds. Awards are meant to build expertise, research capabilities, and competitiveness—they are not intended solely to support faculty salaries or student stipends.

Student involvement is strongly encouraged, but the primary goal is to strengthen SU's research capacity and infrastructure so that SU researchers can better contribute to the nation's science and technology enterprise. In this regard, contacts and collaborations with federal agencies—including DOE centers, NASA centers, NASA researchers, and other federal labs—are strongly encouraged.

### ELIGIBILITY

Preference is given to support proposals from first-time researchers (assistant and associate professors) and grad/undergrad students. Student applicants must submit as a Co-PI with a faculty member listed as PI. **PIs may only submit one proposal per competition cycle.** Eligibility is restricted to students currently enrolled and faculty with appointment in the following SUBR units:

- College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Science
- Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences
- College of Nursing and Allied Health
- College of Sciences and Engineering

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for submission is at **11:59pm on February 15, 2026**. The application is included below:

[https://www.subr.edu/assets/subr/StrategicInitiatives/ORSI/REA\\_APPLICATION\\_2026.pdf](https://www.subr.edu/assets/subr/StrategicInitiatives/ORSI/REA_APPLICATION_2026.pdf)

Proposals should be submitted through normal OSP procedures and online routing through CAYUSE. Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf or Word document with the following:

- A. Cover Page (no more than 1 page)** – Project Title, PI/Co-PI applicant's name(s), faculty status, Name of College, Department, and contact information for PI (office, email, & phone), and a brief one-paragraph abstract that highlights how the proposed project will aid in building capacity and infrastructure at SU in research areas critical to DOE centers, NASA centers, NIH centers, and other federal laboratories. Abstracts must be no longer than 500 words and suitable for publication.

**B. Project Narrative (5 page maximum)** – Project narrative should include a brief overview of the proposed research (with ties to existing research in the area), any theoretical foundation (existing or proposed), purpose and methodology of the research, the capacity building nature and/or uniqueness of proposed study and distinguish between the REA research project and the activities of the eventual proposal for which you will seek external funding. Please provide citations and references where necessary.

**C. Plan for Obtaining External Funding (no more than 1 page)** – Please include: a) government agencies or foundations you plan to approach and provide a copy of the agency/foundation solicitation to which you plan to submit; b) any conversations/past proposals you may have had with program administrator(s) at the agency/foundation and provide feedback or proposal reviews; c) timeline for applying to agency/foundation; d) the expected scale of the proposed larger project; and e) how the activities of the associated REA grant would aid your pursuit of external support. Also list any current or pending grant applications that are related to the project, including funds requested or received from sources both internal and external to Southern University and A&M College.

**D. Relation of Proposed Activities to Existing Research (no more than 1 page)** – If the REA grant is related to existing, ongoing, currently funded capacity/technology building projects, and/or education funded research, describe the relationship including: a) how the activities funded by the REA grant will benefit the existing project; and b) how the existing project will benefit the activities supported by the REA grant.

**E. Budget and Justification (justification should be no more than 2 pages)** – A maximum of 10 grants of up to \$50K each will be awarded. Budget should provide clear indication of expenses by category (personnel, materials, equipment, participant support, etc.) and the total. **Allowable expenditures include:** 1) Up to one summer-month faculty salary, 2) Graduate and/or undergraduate student support, 3) Project supplies costs, 4) Travel costs (**ONLY** allowable when in support of the presentation of research findings that result from REA project activities or to support team building with federal agencies and laboratories). To receive travel permission through REA funds, a copy of the invitation to present or conference approval of presentation/ research abstract is required. **NO international travel is allowed**, and 5) Student tuition.

A brief budget justification addressing each category, as well as the overall budget rationale should be attached. Funds are awarded for a period of **ONE** project year from **04/01/2026 – 03/30/2027**. All awards are final and will not be renewed. Expenditures must be made within the project year. Cost- and or no-cost extensions may be allowed in certain circumstances. Requests for extensions (with proper justifications and approvals) must be made via the REA Grant Program by emailing [osp@subr.edu](mailto:osp@subr.edu). Please include “REA Grant Program – EXTENSION REQUEST” in the subject line.

**F. Curriculum Vitae** – Vitae for each investigator listed should be in the format of the Agency to which external funding will be requested (i.e., if submitting to NSF, all vitae should be a 2-page NSF-formatted biographical sketch).

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

Proposals will be reviewed by the REA Executive Committee. The most important evaluation criteria are intellectual merit and the promise of innovative, capacity building research, as well as the potential to attract further funding. Secondary criteria may include the extent to which the research is interdisciplinary or involves collaborative activities.

Grant awards will be announced by: **April 1, 2026.**

## **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

Research projects involving human subjects must maintain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval prior to accepting an award. While proposals that have not yet undergone IRB review may still be considered for funding, no funds will be disbursed until the project is approved by the IRB.

**Reporting:** Recipients of REA grants are obliged to report on the activities to which the grant is being applied on a quarterly basis. Progress toward obtaining external support for the eventual project must also be reported prior to the close of the project year. The REA grant investigator reporting schedule is Jun 30<sup>th</sup> (initial report should include information regarding budget status ONLY), Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, and Mar 15<sup>th</sup> to close out the project. **Funding and reporting schedules are subject to change as agency deadlines may be extended.**

Photographs and copies of all papers, presentations, and posters resulting from the award should be shared with the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) as they are produced and cited in the Final Report.

Final Report guidelines will be made available in the award document, along with any reporting templates.

**Administration:** Investigators who receive external grants based on REA research are expected to administer those funds through the Office of Sponsored Programs, as well as acknowledge REA support in any papers and publications ensuing from the research.

All REA requests and reports should be submitted via the REA Grant Program by emailing: [osp@subr.edu](mailto:osp@subr.edu).

For more information regarding the REA Grant Program, Contact:

**Patrick F. Mensah**

Ph: 225.771.2975

Email: [patrick.mensah@sus.edu](mailto:patrick.mensah@sus.edu)