

A&S Dean's Opportunity Fund RFP 2026-2027

Sometimes the only thing between a big idea and a transformative impact is a small amount of support. The Dean's Opportunity Fund has been created to catalyze faculty research, scholarly or creative projects using small grants of between \$200-\$2000, to be awarded ad hoc to any tenured and tenure-track faculty within the College. Priority will be given to Assistant and Associate level faculty.

Submissions will be accepted once per month. Please email your submission to Susie LaChapelle at susie.lachapelle@uri.edu. In exceptional circumstances, submissions may be accepted outside the regular review cycle. The decision on what proposals, if any, will receive funding during each monthly cycle will be made by the Dean.

Criteria

1. The need is clear, immediate, and significant to a faculty member's research, creative work, professional development, or public impact. Funds are not meant for teaching-related purposes.
2. The outcome is clear and immediate
3. The need is not conventionally served by other available funding options or is more pressing than can be met by conventional channels.
4. The funds must be fully spent by the end of Spring 2027 or Summer 2027.
5. A brief report must be submitted to the Dean's Office by August 2027 including a description of how the need was met in language suitable for a newsletter release to donors.

Examples include an upgrade to an equipment purchase to obtain a significantly better research tool, funds for a public panel addressing an issue of urgent community concern, fees for a professional development course, or support for any immediate or unexpected research expense that would enable a faculty member to take advantage of a valuable opportunity.

One-Page Application*

- Name, Contact Details, Department, Title of Project [Title should be suitable for a public (donor) audience], Amount Requested, Relevant Deadline(s)
- 200-word paragraph describing the need, and how support from the Opportunity Fund will have a transformative impact on the candidate's research, creative output, or public impact. The description of both need and transformative impact should be written for a general A&S audience and not presume detailed knowledge of a particular field's norms.

- Updated CV

- Brief budget outline if funds are to cover multiple separate expenses

* If a project is selected for recommendation, the Coordinator of Sponsored Research Support and Outreach may request more information or a more detailed proposal before forwarding recommendations to the Dean.

Submission Deadlines: October 30, 2026; November 23, 2026; December 28, 2026; January 29, 2027; February 26, 2027 March 26, 2027, April 30, 2027, May 28, 2027