

VCU Momentum Fund FY 2025 Request for Applications

Purpose: The **VCU Momentum Fund** promotes impactful interdisciplinary research by providing multi-principal investigator research teams with support to prepare and submit competitive, external, multi-component 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) or foundations (e.g., Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and MacArthur Foundation).

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

Full Proposal Deadline	January 31, 2025
Award Start Date and Project Period	July 1, 2025, 18-24 months
Award Ceiling	Up to \$225,000, no unit cost share
Funds Release	Funds are released in annual increments following the proposed budget. Year 2 funds are released following a successful mid-term report.
Program Category	Large-scale center and initiative planning
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of three VCU PIs required ● 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. ● Inclusive research teams encompassing meaningful participation of all members are strongly encouraged, including URM and/or minoritized faculty, early-stage investigators, trainees, and students. ● Projects must demonstrate alignment with a research strategic plan initiative, along with specific goal(s) and objective(s) identified in the One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan. ● PIs and Co-PIs with <u>active</u> Momentum awards at the time of proposal submission are ineligible to apply as a PI or Co-PI on an additional Momentum proposal during this funding cycle. ● Upon award for the 2025 Momentum funding cycle, PIs and Co-PIs are ineligible to serve as PI or Co-PI on another Momentum grant until the first submission cycle after the external submission requirement is met.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
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Full proposal deadline: Application packages should be submitted via RAMS-SPOT Internal Opportunities here: [VCU Momentum Grant OP00000698](#) no later than **5 p.m. (EST) on January 31, 2025**. 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](#)

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"> ● Salary support, including fringe benefits, for PI(s) and co-investigators, collectively not to exceed 20% of total project costs (i.e., if the total project budget is \$200,000, the collective PI/co-I salaries and fringe cannot exceed \$40,000 total). ● Salary support, including fringe benefits, for project staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Salary support for administrative personnel or 12-month UAP or executive personnel. ● 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 costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral stipends, if relevant to the project, with a detailed justification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuition other than graduate student 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"> ● Participant fees. ● Other expenses (i.e., laboratory and shared core facilities/resource fees). ● Consultant costs. ● Equipment/technology critical to the project. (Requests over \$5,000 must include a detailed justification.) ● Publication fees 	<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.
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Review process: The submission, review, and funding process are coordinated by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation. Applications will be reviewed and scored by faculty members from across the University. Subject matter experts will be selected whenever possible. Reviews and scores will then be submitted to the Strategic Research Priorities Plan (SRPP) Advisory Council. Recommendations from the Council will be forwarded to the VPRI for final approval. Review feedback will be sent to those applicants not awarded. 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.
- Relation to Strategic Research Priorities Plan, including specific potential for a project to further the goals and objectives identified.
- Team, including PI(s) preparedness, transdisciplinary qualities, and diversity (meaningful participation of trainees, students, URM and/or minoritized faculty and early-stage investigators as well as cross-campus collaboration).

Award and reporting process: The project start date is July 1, 2025 and the award period is 18-24 months. Funds will be released in annual increments following the proposed budget. Year 2 funds will be released following a successful mid-term report documenting meaningful progress toward achieving the project aims/goals. Progress should include evidence that the applicants have met with a relevant program officer/director from the planned funding agency if such a meeting is allowed by the agency. The Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI) and members of the Advisory Council will review progress in comparison to budget utilization and project milestones based on the initial project proposal. The remaining funds will only be released following approval from the VPRI. A final project report including an accounting of all funds expended, a summary of work completed, and progress on sustainability plans will be required 30 days after the project end date.

Additional requirements for all VCU Momentum Fund awards:

- Project PIs must apply for the external grant opportunity identified 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 intellectual property, IRB, IACUC, etc.
- Project PIs will meet with the Division of Research Development at least twice annually.
- The principal investigator(s) will be required to participate in an annual survey of results and outcomes (e.g., external grants submissions and awards, publications, creative work, intellectual property, etc.) associated with their fund-sponsored research. Participation will begin one year after the project end date and continue annually for a total of three years.
- 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 project progress reports.
- Projects are expected to be completed within the specific budget period. If an extenuating circumstance should be considered for a no-cost extension, the PI(s) will be expected to fully justify the request in writing. Extensions are at the sole discretion of the VPRI and there is no guarantee that the extension will be approved.

- 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.