Research collaborators must confirm: 1) That their research topic fits the objectives of a federal funding agency's grant program portfolio, or 2) matches an identified NSRI priority topic, and 3) Is (or is not) directly aligned with this program's defined research topics[2]. The research team must include faculty from more than one NU campus.[3,4] If a proposal's PI has not received extramural research funding in the last three years (as either a PI or Co-PI), they must identify at least one Co-PI who is both grant-active and willing to serve as a research mentor to the team. The research mentor need not be actively involved in the research itself, but a description of their role and activities associated with the mentoring process must be included in the project narrative (one short paragraph).

General Eligibility: Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors and equivalent-rank faculty with formal research appointments/apportionments employed by any NU campus are eligible to submit funding applications as the PI and participate as Co-PIs. Other faculty are eligible to participate and contribute towards a project's goals, but the primary focus of the program is to strengthen the federally fundable research competitiveness of faculty who are likely to maintain a longer-term employment relationship with NU. Faculty may serve as the lead PI on one grant associated with this year's RFA; there is no limit on participation as Co-PIs. Collaboration Initiative-funded PIs/Co-PIs are not restricted from seeking new funding for federally fundable topics not previously researched with prior-year Collaboration Initiative support.

Collaboration Requirements: Proposals will not be considered for funding unless *meaningful*[5] multi-campus and appropriate disciplinary collaborations are documented. Faculty employed by one NU campus (UNK, UNL, UNMC, and UNO) must identify at least one collaborator affiliated with another campus; if appropriate, because of unique expertise/resource availability, additional collaborations with researchers at other institutions are allowed. Funding for collaborators outside the University of Nebraska system will not typically be allowed

Annual Meeting: An annual meeting to facilitate multi-campus collaborations, gain perspectives from past NRI funding recipients, and to review the RFA will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023 (in-person). Potential PIs/team leaders wishing to be eligible for funding must participate unless special dispensation is granted. Potential team members (Co-PIs), former and current Collaboration Initiative grantees, and others looking to participate on research teams are *strongly* encouraged to attend. Participants will be expected to informally discuss their potential research projects with other attendees within a small group and be receptive to engaging other collaborators.

Deadlines

Meeting Registration:
Register by Friday, September 25, 2023.

Submission of Applications:
Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, via the NuRamp website.

Start an application: NuRamp

Continue working on an existing application: NuRamp.nebraska.edu

Application Format and Content

Online text entry and PDF file uploads for:

Application Title	Total Funds Requested and Budget
PI Contact Information	Budget Justification
Contact Information for Co-PI(s)	Budget Allocation Amounts (to PI and Co-PIs)
Abstract/Summary (not to exceed 300 words)	PI/Co-PI CVs
Broad Topic Area (drop-down)	(Up to) Five primary aims/goals/objectives
Targeted Federal Grant Program	Five reviewer suggestions
Project Description/Narrative	

Complete the Online Form
Specify the application title and complete the fields for all PIs/Co-PIs. Make certain you identify the correct campus, college, and department for each investigator. Provide a proposal abstract/summary that briefly outlines the proposed work, and identify the topic area being addressed (broadly interpret the topic areas[6] so as to avoid the use of the "other" field unless

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[6] Topic areas include: Computing, Information Sciences, Data Sciences, and Bioinformatics; Generative AI: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications; Behavioral / Mental Health Prevention, Diagnosis, and Care; Engineering and Material Science Applications / Use-Inspired Research; Structural and Functional Biology Applications in the Life Sciences and Agriculture; Clinical Trial Collaborations: Disease Prevention, Diagnostics, and Therapies; Cancer Prevention, Screening, and Early Interventions; Water Resource and Water Safety Management; Disease Mechanisms, Preventions, and Treatments; National Security Threat; Detection, Mitigation, and Response; Aging/Quality of Life While Aging; Drug Discovery, Delivery, And Development Educational Outcomes (Including Workforce Development)

Review Process

Applications will first be screened to determine if all RFA guidelines have been met, including (but not limited to) retreat participation, general eligibility, formatting, collaboration requirements, and budget amounts. Proposals will be reviewed by either NU research faculty, research administrators, or external reviewers. The primary evaluation criteria will be reviewers' evaluative summaries.[8] Reviewers will also use a scoring rubric to assist them with providing the evaluative summary:

a) Justification/description of significance, innovation, and impact (25 points);
b) Evidence of research's alignment to priorities of the identified federal funding agency and identified program (25 points);
c) An approach/work plan that is both scientifically sound and one that will enhance the identified federal research funding application (35 points);
d) Meaningful collaborations/roles/responsibilities defined for PI/Co-PIs (