
USCB Sea Islands Institute Grants for 2025 Call for Proposals

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday October 30, 2024

Mission and Purpose of the USCB Sea Islands Institute: The mission of the Sea Islands Institute (SII) is to promote programs and scholarship that grow out of the extraordinary location of USCB, which includes the region's rich history, strong and multiple cultures, and fragile environments worth protecting. The SII is interdisciplinary, providing outreach, scholarship, and education services that support sustainability of our treasured community. The SII combines the expertise of local scholars and outside partners in an effort to sustain the region's economic, ecological, social, and cultural vitality.

Sea Islands Institute Grants for 2025: The South Carolina Lowcountry, like regions around the world, confronts challenges related to human health, education, housing, sustainability, infrastructure, transportation, technology, and societal welfare in general. The rapidly changing world in which we live requires a synthesis of ideas from multiple perspectives and disciplines to develop innovative ideas and solve complex problems. The diverse expertise of USCB's faculty uniquely equips it to address these challenges.

The Sea Islands Institute Grants awarded for 2025 will prioritize *diverse teams* (i.e., multiple faculty members across different departments/programs) who will tackle challenges facing our citizenry and environment. Applicants are encouraged to address specific challenges by combining expertise across disciplines. The SII Grants may provide seed funding for projects that will become competitive for external funding.

Eligibility: All tenured and tenure-track USCB faculty are eligible to apply.

Awards: Grant proposals should establish a regional context for scholarship in line with the Sea Islands Institute's mission. Grants are funded up to \$7,000 providing their budgets are carefully explained and fully justified. (See Grant Review Process below.) The committee reserves the right to alter the award amount depending on the quality of the budget justification. The period of performance for this year's grant runs from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. (Multi-year grants are not authorized; however, extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis should extenuating circumstance arise.) For 2025, USCB anticipates awarding up to three (3) Sea Island Institute grants of up to \$7,000 each.

Application Procedure: Submit proposals as a single pdf or Word document. If extra images are necessary for review (e.g., photos of an art installation) an appendix may be included, but the appendix should not be used to circumvent the length restriction. Submit proposals not later than 5pm on Wednesday October 30, 2024, using the button at the bottom of the page at:

https://www.uscb.edu/academics/research/sea_islands_institute/sii-grants/index.html

Format: The narrative of the proposal should be no more than three pages of single-spaced text, using an 11-point font (Times New Roman or Arial) and 1-inch margins. Sections to be included in the narrative are *Background, Goals and Objectives, Methodology* and *Expected Results*.

In addition to the narrative, a complete application must include:

1. CVs of no more than three pages each for themselves and any listed consultants or collaborators.
2. A list of all current and pending support, including the title, sponsor, amount requested/awarded, project dates, and goals/objectives for each funded or pending grant or contract.

3. A detailed budget as described below, including as needed: personnel (salary and fringe benefits), travel, supplies, small equipment, consultants/contractual obligations, and other expenses. See below for allowable and non-allowable expenses.
4. A budget justification, detailing the need for each item requested in the context of the proposed project.

Grant Review Process: Submitted proposals undergo a competitive review by the EVCAA appointed Sea Islands Institute Steering Committee. Proposals must include evidence of local relevance and that it conforms to appropriate standards for scholarship in its discipline. The project should be well planned, feasible, and realistically budgeted. In evaluating applications, the Committee ranks received proposals for funding after considering the following factors:

Priority points for interdisciplinary research (5 points): Proposals leveraging interdisciplinary teams of faculty (i.e., multiple faculty members across different departments/programs) will receive five extra priority points.

Background, Goals, and Objectives (10 points): Provide enough background information to place your goals and objectives in the larger context of the field of study. The goal of the project should be clear and relevant to the Lowcountry region. Objectives should be assessable by either quantitative or qualitative means. The scope of the project should be reasonable for a one-year period of performance.

Methodology and Expected Results (10 points): Provide sufficient information about methodology to allow reviewers to determine the likelihood of success of the project during the grant's period of performance (January 1, 2025 –December 31, 2025). If planning to use methods that are not standard to your field, provide literature references. Explain how you will assess objectives, what results you expect to obtain, and how those results will be used for future work and/or publication.

Budget and budget justification (10 points): Budgets should be appropriate to the project, not too high or too low. Everything listed should be absolutely necessary to accomplish your objectives and nothing that is absolutely necessary should be omitted. If you have an item(s) required for grant execution but not listed in the budget, explain where it will come from and how you will pay for it (e.g., belongs to a collaborator, purchased from other funding, etc.). Allowable expenses include hourly wages and benefits for student assistants or other temporary workers, supplies, small equipment, consultants and contractors, travel, and other (e.g., small value incentives for participants, publication costs). Any food included must be for individuals who are not employees of the state of South Carolina (e.g., food for workshops, training, participant incentives and meetings involving attendees not employed by the state). Not allowed: USCB faculty salaries, tuition and fees for students, and entertainment expenses.

End of Project Report: The grant recipient must submit a written summary of results to the USCB Director, Sponsored Programs at the end of the award period. If submitting a follow-on proposal for the next award period, the report must be received before the due date for the new proposal. If the funded project is presented and/or published, the presentation or publication should include an acknowledgement that the research was conducted with support from the USCB Sea Islands Institute.