

**Due Date: April 3, 2026**

## **Background:**

The Center for Science, Technology, and Society (CSTS) endeavors to provide opportunities for humanists, scientists (social, behavioral, and natural), and engineers to collaborate on innovative research that addresses how science and technology shape, and are shaped by, our society, culture, politics, and the environment. To this end, the CSTS seeks to enhance collaborative research activities by providing seed grants to help faculty to establish/grow STS-related research programs, increase the amount of competitive research funding they obtain, and elevate the scholarly works they produce. **Seed grants are intended to lead to broader collaborative proposals** and to increase the university community's interest in the CSTS.

## **Funding:**

Funding will be made available for collaborative projects that involve **at least two CSTS faculty member investigators**. Multiple awards of up to \$10,000; projects that are especially complex or that involve relatively large teams of researchers may request funds in excess of \$10,000.

*If seed funding is secured to advance a currently funded project, the PI must revise the PSRS and/or Grant Award Summary to identify the CSTS as receiving credit (use #R5011107). Any subsequent proposals that evolve from CSTS seed funding must also list the CSTS's ID# on the PSRS.*

Funds will be awarded in May 2026. Researchers may begin to spend the funds in July 2026 and should be expended by the end of June 2027. Debrina Weber will work with PIs to manage and administer funds.

**Proposal Review:** Review of the proposals will occur within one month of the proposal due date, and will be conducted by a committee consisting of at least two appointed CSTS investigators. The director of the CSTS can provide an additional review if needed.

## **Research Proposal (3-4 pages):**

1. Proposed project title and names and departments of principal investigator and Co-PIs.
2. Objective of the research project (e.g. what question(s) are you trying to answer?).
3. How you plan to approach this project (methodology).
4. Novelty of the research project. No formal references page is necessary, but it's important to establish (briefly) the context for your investigation and how your project is creative and innovative.
5. Expected/targeted results/outcomes of the research, and how such results will contribute to the mission of the CSTS (<http://csts.mst.edu>).

6. Plans for submission of external grant proposal(s) based on this research (which specific agencies/program(s)?).
7. Evaluation metrics (how will you measure the success of the project?).
8. Detailed budget for the proposal. CSTS seed funds may be expended on equipment, materials, student assistance, software, and any other relevant expense. Travel funds should not be included unless (a) the travel is critical to the project; and (b) all other potential sources of travel funds (faculty support accounts, department, CASE, CEC, KC, CAFÉ, etc.) have been exhausted. Summer salary is not available through this grant program.

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Submit your proposal electronically in .pdf format to Kathleen Sheppard ([sheppardka@mst.edu](mailto:sheppardka@mst.edu)) by **April 3, 2026**. Please also copy Debrina Weber ([dgwcn@mst.edu](mailto:dgwcn@mst.edu)).

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#### **Selection Criteria:**

- Does the proposal relate to the CSTS vision (<http://csts.mst.edu>)?
- Is the proposal interdisciplinary?
- What is the intellectual merit of the proposed work?
- Is the scope of the project reasonable and manageable in the established timeframe?
- Are there identified potential future funding agencies, and a strong likelihood that the proposal will lead to submissions to these agencies?

#### **Reporting Requirements (if funded):**

A short **progress report** must be submitted to the director of the CSTS by January 1, 2027. A brief **final report** must be submitted when the project concludes (end of June, 2027). These reports should include the following information:

- 1) short summary of work progress to date
- 2) progress toward submitting publication(s) stemming from this work
- 3) progress toward submitting external proposal(s) stemming from this work.

At various points during 2026-27, funded researchers may be asked to provide updates during CSTS meetings about the progress of their work. Presentations are completely voluntary.

Seed grantees who do not comply with these requirements may not be eligible to apply for the subsequent cycle of funding.