4-VA Grant Program: Request for Proposals
Collaborative Research Grant RFP at James Madison University

General Information:
4-VA is a collaborative of five universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia that are working together to realize Virginia’s goals for higher education. The group is the result of a collaboration undertaken by industry, government, and university presidents at George Mason University, James Madison University, Old Dominion University, University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech. 4-VA’s mission is to promote inter-university collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university in order to accomplish much more than any individual university could achieve alone. The legislation creating 4-VA explains that it was established:

...to utilize emerging technologies to promote collaboration and resource sharing to increase access, reduce time to graduation and reduce unit cost while maintaining and enhancing quality. Instructional talent across the four institutions will be leveraged in the delivery of programs in foreign languages, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is expected that funding will be pooled by the management board as required to support continuing efforts of the 4-VA priorities and projects.

4-VA strives to:
1. Define instructional models, including the clear definition of instructional costs
2. Significantly expand access for all Virginians to programs preparing them for rewarding careers,
3. Increase research competitiveness, and
4. Increase opportunities for and enhance the success of students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses and programs

Guidelines
The purpose for awarding 4-VA grants is to support faculty efforts that contribute to 4-VA initiatives related to research and instruction. Specific goals involve 1.) encouraging collaboration among faculty in developing research capacity and partnerships, 2.) developing shared courses and 3.) redesigning existing courses. Other proposals that demonstrate innovative approaches relevant to the 4-VA project will also be considered. Potential outcomes include:
- Collaborative Research Projects
- Shared Courses
- Redesigned Courses

Aims of 4-Va Collaborative Research Grants
The aim of JMU 4-VA collaborative research grants is to invest in innovative ideas that not only impact James Madison University’s campus but have the potential for future funding and collaborations beyond campus. The program aims to combine the interests and expertise of faculty from multiple 4-VA institutions to increase their research competitiveness and capacity. Potential outcomes include:
- Original research
- Creating new partnerships
- Events/conference that bring together researchers on common subjects
- Future funding and competitive research

Funding Information
4-VA at JMU plans to award funds totaling $150,000 each fiscal year. These funds will be awarded in the form of mini-grants which will range from $1,000-$5,000, or scale-up grants which will go up to $20,000. In order to be considered for a scale-up grant faculty must have either previously received a mini-grant from 4-VA or show evidence of their capacity to take existing research to the next level.
Complementary Funds
Complementary funds can be requested (up to $5,000) from the other 4-VA Institutions as long as a collaborator is located there. If you are interested in requesting complementary funds contact the 4-VA Assistant Director at brokamkm@jmu.edu or (540)568-7170

Funding Priorities
4-VA at James Madison University encourages projects to focus on funding priorities of the program but it is not a required aspect. Funding priorities include:
- Incorporate undergraduate and graduate student researchers into the project
- Create and/or strengthen partnerships across the Commonwealth
- Projects that show a strong plan of future funding from other resources

Screening Criteria
1. Grants are open to James Madison University faculty. Faculty may name staff as Co-PIs.
2. Applicant must obtain departmental chair support especially when departmental resources are utilized.
3. Projects must contain an aspect of collaboration.

Evaluation Criteria
1. Alignment of proposal to 4-VA funding priorities
2. Alignment of proposal to 4-VA screening criteria
3. Strength and evidence of collaboration with 4-VA institutions or other partners in the commonwealth
4. Potential for strategic impact
5. Innovation in research
6. Sustainability
7. Alignment with institutional goals

Proposal Format
Proposals should be double spaced, 12 point – Arial font, PDF file (saved, not scanned) and include the following:
1. Project Summary (1-2 pages)
   a. Title
   b. Director (PI)
   c. Partners/Collaborators (if known or partner institutions if not known)
   d. Type of Grant. What initiative(s) are being addressed
2. Narrative (1-3 pages)
   a. Project activity summary
   b. Research questions
   c. Research plan (framework/methods/phases/specific approach)
   d. Assessment plan
   e. Outcomes and deliverables
3. Timeline
4. Budget
5. Proposals that involve JMU departmental resources or release time will require approval from the appropriate academic unit head.

Submission Deadlines
Grant applications are accepted at any time. Specific deadline dates will be announced for each funding cycle – funding decisions and an award ceremony will be scheduled twice a year-Fall and Spring– subject to available funds. Please complete the form listed here and attach your proposal to the form—
http://goo.gl/y8Xo3T

Submit questions to the JMU 4-VA Director at swaynedd@jmu.edu. Only grants submitted through the procedure listed above will be considered for funding.
Expectations
1. Grantees must participate in yearly 4-VA assessment activities (survey)
2. Upon completion of an awarded 4-VA grant, awarded but unused 4-VA grant funds may be requested for use in other teaching or research activities based on two conditions:
   a. First, the request must be made within one year of the completion of the grant
   b. Second, the original grant must have been completed in good standing
3. Any publication or product resulting from activity assisted my the JMU 4-VA grants should include the following statement:
   “This works was supported by the 4-VA Collaborative at James Madison University”

Legal and Ethical Considerations
Depending on your project, certain federal, state, and university grant rules and regulations may apply. For further information regarding these rules, contact John Hulvey, Director of Sponsored Programs Accounting and Administration, at hulevyjd@jmu.edu. If you believe your project will result in patentable work, you should discuss requirements and policies with the Director of the Office of Technology Transfer, Mary Lou Bourne (bourneml@jmu.edu), MSC 4904.

A number of ethical practice review protocols are required for some research activities. If you have questions about the requirements that may apply to your project, contact JMU’s IRB Compliance Officer, Carolyn Strong at strongcd@jmu.edu or 8-6872.

If you have questions or would like more information or clarification on this RFP or 4-VA initiatives, please contact the 4-VA Campus Director at swaynedd@jmu.edu or (540)568-6093