Request for Proposals (RFP)

Innovation for Alaska - Transitioning Solutions and Stakeholder Discovery: Fall 2022

***Opens**: September 23, 2022* ***Closes**: October 17, 2022 at 8 am*

Webinar recording from Oct 4, 2022, 2:30 - 3:30 pm Alaska time
Youtube: https://bit.ly/Youtube-Oct4Webinar

Overview: Calling all innovative academics. Are you looking to make a direct impact from your research ventures? Are you a changemaker, and passionate about finding solutions to today's challenges and building a stronger, more resilient Alaska. Center ICE is seeking proposals to seed new ideas, build collaborations, and transition research outcomes into impactful and integrated solutions for our communities and industries in Alaska - and beyond. This RFP, supported by the Office of Naval Research, will help Center ICE and partners identify proposed projects that advance innovations with the greatest opportunity of adoption and/or that have a direct impact in the community. As such, proposals should describe not just the innovation and its proposed development but also the anticipated application and likelihood of adoption.

Themes: This RFP focuses on innovations for Alaska and their transition into solutions for communities and industries along with accompanying stakeholder discovery. Submitted proposals should align with one of three themes and state which one in the submission process.

Theme #1: Climate Resiliency. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change, and all of the communities and ecosystems face hazards such as flooding, fires, and erosion – risks which are exacerbated by our changing climate. Projects under this theme will focus on solutions to some of the region's majority needs to adapt to the changing climate and will demonstrate an ability to be translated into practice and impact.

Theme #2: Community Energy Research that builds local capacity. Competitive proposals are community-defined projects requesting researchers to work on community-led ideas and initiatives. Requests can include funding for the needed resources, labor for technical staff, research faculty, or students, and supplies, contractual services, or travel required for their proposed projects. Eligible projects need to be University-affiliated faculty, staff or students.

Theme #3: Blue Resilience. Technology innovation is creating opportunities to grow Alaska's blue economy. Identifying community and industry needs and ideating on your solution is essential to commercializing research. Projects under this theme will focus on aquatic environments while ensuring sustainable practices.

Funding: Projects can apply for up to $15,000 with an anticipated support for 3 - 4 projects. In addition, awarded teams will participate in the UAF's National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps site program managed and led by Center ICE, for their customer and stakeholder discovery that comes with access to an additional $4,500 per team. There are opportunities to extend the project beyond the end of the period of performance and this can be negotiated with the Center ICE team.

Proposals - Phase I: Proposals are due October 17, 2022 by 8 am Alaska time. Please submit your three-page proposal as a PDF to centerice@alaska.edu and cc'd to edjacome@alaska.edu and pwwebley@alaska.edu with the Subject: "CISF: Fall 2022 RFP - Innovation for Alaska". Please include the lead researchers name in the file name, the email subject information, and the theme number using format "Theme #X" with the X replaced by your theme.

Proposals - Phase II: There will be a review process for proposals, and finalists will be required to present their proposals to the Center ICE team during the week of October 17 - 21, 2022. This will give proposal leads an opportunity to provide more detail on their planned innovative research, and for the review committee to ask questions to support their review process. Leads will be informed by Wednesday October 19, 2022 if they have progressed to Phase II.

Review and Award Process: All proposals will be reviewed by October 21, 2022. Following this date, the Center ICE team will work with the proposals moving forwards to projects and to transition the awarded teams into the I-Corps programming and to set up their project timeline. All awarded projects will be set up by October 31, 2022 to start the Fall 2022 I-Corps program.

Training: Awarded projects will have access to the UAF NSF I-Corps training program for six weeks from November 1, 2022. Teams will be trained in the lean canvas discovery process as well as be able to access up to an additional $4,500 in stipend, $1,250 per team member for three individuals, and/or travel support. Results from the I-Corps training will be reported to the Center ICE using a template and will support the research to be performed under the award.

Period of Performance: The research to be performed under this award will occur between January 3 and May 12, 2023 with the accompanying I-Corps training occurring between November 1 - December 13, 2023. Any questions on the timeline of project research and I-Corps requirements can be directed to Evelyn Jacome edjacome@alaska.edu and Peter Webley pwwebley@alaska.edu with Subject "CISF: Fall 2022 RFP - Questions".

Administrative: If you have a project that would extend beyond May 12, 2023, contact us about the possibility and the benefit that it provides to your team. Center ICE will set up awardees' account codes and will retain primary responsibility for reporting to the federal agency. A required three-page final report for this funding opportunity is required and Center ICE will provide all awarded projects with a template. Center ICE will retain all ICR generated from funded project

Questions: For more information on the proposal process, pitching to the Center ICE team, and the requirements attached to awarded projects then please contact Evelyn Jacome edjacome@alaska.edu and Peter Webley pwwebley@alaska.edu with Subject "CISF: Fall 2022 RFP - Questions". You can find more information on the Center ICE seed fund along with details on the proposal format at https://alaska.edu/centerice/seed-funding/.

Acknowledgements: This RFP and the Center ICE Seed fund is supported by a grant to Center ICE from the Office of Naval Research. The support for the I-Corps training is provided through a grant to Center ICE from the National Science Foundation (#1829281) as a I-Corps Site.

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Who May Submit a Proposal: This funding opportunity is internal to the University of Alaska. All University of Alaska faculty, staff, and students are eligible.

Proposal Requirements: Each project proposal must have a title, lead investigator contact details, project start and end dates, and the name and contact information of the fiscal officer. Proposal narratives must not exceed 3 pages of size 12 font with 1-in margins; this does not include the budget. Proposal narratives must specifically address each of the following:

- Your chosen theme and reasoning from the three defined under this RFP,
- How this problem is currently being addressed,
- How your innovation is novel, relative to existing solutions,
- A description of the work you will perform to develop your solution,
- How you propose to measure success for your project,
- A list of key personnel including a 1-3 sentence biography of each, and
- Acknowledgement that your department will not receive ICR associated with the project.

Project duration: Proposals will be accepted, reviewed, and awarded after the closing date of October 17, 2022 at 8 am Alaska time. The project end date and deadline to submit expenses must be no later than May 12, 2023.

Budget and anticipated funding: Proposals should be accompanied by a budget request in the form of a line-item budget and brief budget narrative. Budgets can be up to $15,000.

How to submit: Proposals will be accepted starting September 23, 2022 until October 17, 2022 at 8 am Alaska time. Proposals do not need to go through a pre-award office but should be submitted to centerice@alaska.edu and cc'd to edjacome@alaska.edu and pwwebley@alaska.edu with the Subject: "CISF: Fall 2022 RFP - Innovation for Alaska". Please include the lead researchers name in the PDF file name as well as the email subject information and the theme number using format "Theme #X" with the X replaced for your chosen theme. You will receive an email confirmation of your submission within 24 hours.

Find out more: There will be a zoom-based webinar on October 4, 2022, 2:30 - 3:30 pm Alaska time. You can sign up @ https://bit.ly/IceJamOct4 .

Questions: All questions should be directed to Evelyn Jacome edjacome@alaska.edu or Peter Webley pwwebley@alaska.edu with Subject "CISF: Fall 2022 RFP - Questions". Center ICE's purpose is to strengthen the culture of innovation and entrepreneurialism at the University of Alaska and to grow the pipeline of innovations with commercial potential. This RFP is supported by the Office of Naval Research and is a program of UAF's Center for Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship (Center ICE).