UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

REQUEST FOR PILOT AWARD APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH USING HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING RESOURCES
<u>Call for Proposals for 2026 – 2027</u>

The Center for Integrated Research Computing (CIRC) invites proposals for pilot awards that support collaborative research efforts in all domains of research supported by high performance computing. The CIRC pilot award program aims to support efforts toward attracting external funding and to take advantage of the high-performance computational investments of the University.

<u>**Synopsis and Review Criteria:**</u>
Funds are available to support personnel and supplies for short-term, early-phase work necessary to allow investigators to translate ideas into models, data, and results needed to pursue external funding opportunities. The following three areas provide a brief overview of the types of broad research applications that are supported by high performance computing resources:

- **Modeling and Simulation**: Computational application of mathematical models for physical, chemical, biological, behavioral, and other systems. Examples include computational fluid dynamics, molecular dynamics, quantum mechanics, economics, epidemiology, etc.

- **Big Data and High-Throughput Instrumentation**: Large volumes and/or variety of data and analytical methods made available by instrumentation capable of generating complex data. Examples include data from next-generation sequencers, specialized imaging systems, MRI, mass spectrometers, microscopy, radio telescopes, etc.

- **Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence**: Development of machine learning and deep learning methods and applications with numerical, text, audio, image, and/or video data. Examples include computer vision, large language models, multimodal learning, etc.

The category that best matches the proposal should be identified by applicants. Proposals will be evaluated based on intellectual merit and potential to attract collaborative external funding. Proposals will be reviewed by anonymous reviewers from the University community with relevant expertise.

<u>**Award Information:**</u>
The maximum budget for an award is $30,000. Funds should be used for student/post-doc support, equipment, materials, laboratory supplies, computing hardware, and software. All laboratory research staff including students, technicians and fellows are eligible. Funds may not be used for faculty salaries. Subawards or subcontracts to other institutions are prohibited. Funds are limited, and the size of the budget request and the appropriate justification will be considered as a review criterion. Offers of matching support will be viewed favorably but are not required. Priority will be placed on projects anticipating rapid external funding and/or aligning to areas of research distinction outlined in the Boundless Possibility strategic plan.

Eligibility:
Principal investigators (PIs) must be full-time faculty members at the University of Rochester. Each proposal must have a PI, and may include co-PIs, and other senior personnel, as needed. The PI or at least one of the co-PIs must be a CIRC affiliated faculty member. There are no limits on the number of proposals per faculty.

Questions and Deadlines:
For questions about the CIRC pilot award program or about the submission process, contact CIRC Director Brendan Mort. The deadline for submission is **April 10, 2026**. Proposals submitted after April 10, 2026 will not be accepted.

Submission Details:
- Page 1: Project title, names of the PI, co-PIs, senior personnel, department affiliations, amount of funding requested, and project abstract.
- Pages 2-4: Project description (3 pages maximum). The project description must clearly describe the intellectual merit of the proposed work. It should also indicate the specific external collaborative funding opportunities the project team is planning to pursue based on the pilot award grant. References may also be included as additional pages as needed.
- Page 5: Project budget, budget justification, and timeline. Provide detailed budget requirements and an outline of the proposed timeline detailing expected or actual milestones (in months) for the project and the project budget. The timeline for the project should have an anticipated start date of July 1, 2026 and an end date of June 30, 2027.
- Pages 6+: CVs/biosketches of the PI, co-PIs, and all senior personnel (NSF or NIH style is preferred but not required).

Please email completed materials to CIRC's administrator, Telicea Lucci (telicea.lucci@rochester.edu) by April 10, 2026.