



## Texas A&M Institute of Data Science

# Seed Program for AI, Computing, and Data Science (SPAICD)

Updated August 15, 2024

The Texas A&M Institute of Data Science (TAMIDS) [Seed Program for AI, Computing, and Data Science](#) (SPAICD) invites proposals from teams of two or more members to undertake one- to two-year projects that will expand research and collaboration in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning (DS/AI/ML). Awarded teams will receive up to \$10,000 per year for up to two years. The program encourages proposals that leverage or enhance novel ideas and concepts and foster innovation, initiate new collaborations between researchers or new research between current collaborators, and develop initial research results or datasets to support further funding opportunities. Proposals that are responsive to priority areas identified at the national, regional, or state level, that align with strategic initiatives or opportunities within Texas A&M, or that relate to rapidly growing and high-impact areas of DS/AI/ML are particularly encouraged. Proposals should demonstrate a clear goal and a plan to leverage success beyond the duration of the program. TAMIDS will engage with awardees through its ecosystem of programs, partnerships, and participants, and proposers are encouraged to identify specific data science community engagements that can leverage and enhance the outcomes of their proposed research.

**Eligibility:** Each applicant must be a PI-eligible researcher with an administrative location in [Texas A&M University](#), TEES, TEEX, AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, or TTI on the application deadline. Each person can be a member of no more than one applicant team per submission cycle.

**Funding:** Selected teams will be awarded up to \$10,000 each year, with funding for the second year contingent on the successful review of a report due at the end of the first year. Funds may be used for fieldwork, travel expenses, meeting support, student and staff support, software, survey instruments, participant incentives, etc., as they relate to pursuing the proposed initiative and enhancing its chances of being successful. Funding does not support faculty salaries.

**Outcomes:** Applications should identify anticipated outcomes and how they advance the goals of the program. When evaluating applications, emphasis is placed on the overall value of the project to TAMIDS's mission and research in DS/AI/ML, including but not limited to (i) its scholarly merit, (ii) potential for interdisciplinary collaboration, (iii) possibility of external funding, (iv) impact on student learning or professional development, (v) development of new tools and resources, or (vi) building towards larger research initiatives. Proposals need to specify research needs focused on DS/AI/ML and how the proposed activities align with those needs.

**Engagement with TAMIDS:** Applicants are encouraged to propose engagements with TAMIDS and describe how proposed work benefits TAMIDS's mission to promote research, education, service, operations, and outreach in all areas of Data Science and AI across Texas A&M. Questions on engagement opportunities can be directed to [Drew Casey](#), TAMIDS Assistant Director of Program Engagement.

**Program Size:** TAMIDS expects up to ten (10) awards this cycle. Each award will provide \$10,000 funding for up to two (2) years.

**Deadline:** Proposals will be accepted up to the deadline date of [October 14, 2024, 11:59 pm CST](#).



**Proposal Review:** Proposals will be reviewed competitively by a committee established by the TAMIDS Director, with awards being communicated by **November 18, 2024**.

**Application Procedure:** Proposals should be uploaded through Qualtrics via [LINK](#) as a single PDF file containing the following information:

**1. Cover Page**, listing:

- a. Proposal Title (maximum 180 characters)
- b. Subtitle: "TAMIDS SPAICD Proposal"
- c. The name, email address, department, and primary location for each member of the applicant team. The first listed applicant will be the point of contact for the proposal.
- d. Summary of the proposed research initiative (200 words maximum).
- e. Up to four (4) keywords that describe the research area(s) or target audience for proposed activities.

**2. Project Description:** Listing the proposed research activities, **two (2) pages maximum** (Arial, 10pt, one-inch margins), additional pages for figures and bibliography allowed. Descriptions should include the following:

- a. Description of the DS/AI/ML research problem, opportunity, or need:
  - i. Description of the proposed study area and specific DS/AI/ML research problems to be addressed.
  - ii. Responsiveness of proposed work to Texas A&M and external strategic opportunities & priorities.
  - iii. The applicants' preparation for the proposed activities and current activities and resources on which the initiative builds.
- b. Outline of the proposed activities and anticipated outcomes:
  - i. The specific aims of the proposed work, and the approach, methods, and processes to fulfill these.
  - ii. The anticipated products, knowledge, or artifacts generated by the proposed work.
  - iii. Project timeline, including milestones for the end of the first year.
  - iv. Anticipated proposal submission(s) arising from the proposed work, including program, and target deadline if known.
  - v. Collaboration and engagements with TAMIDS and broader Data Science community that will be enabled by this work.
  - vi. Anticipated follow-on work including potential for continuation and collaboration through other programs.
- c. For team members outside College Station, describe how the collaboration will be established and maintained.

**3. Budget:** A project budget and brief budget justification (one page maximum)

**4. Resumes:** Two-page (maximum) resumes for each team member.

**5. (Optional) Additional Documents:** Possible formats include but are not limited to a logic model; detailed references to external documents, relevant reports, and programs; support letters; or quotes for related services. (Recommended limit of 2 pages).

**Program Contact Information:**

**Drew Casey**, TAMIDS Assistant Director for Program Engagement, [drew.casey@tamu.edu](mailto:drew.casey@tamu.edu)