CALL FOR PROPOSALS: The Data Revolution

The 2021/22 Griffin Applied Economics Incubator on the The Data Revolution: New Econometric Tools for the Big Data Era is pleased to announce a call for proposals. The Griffin Applied Economics Incubator, now in its third year, aims to elevate the status of the University of Chicago as a hub for generating initiatives that drive broad-based change. For years, firms have achieved incredible successes in harnessing the power of big data and applying it to new techniques, such as machine learning, to help the world solve crucial problems. Can similar principles be applied to economic questions to predict economic phenomena and improve causal inference? Similarly, can machine learning be used for targeted interventions? Can the knowledge from disciplines outside of economics be used to harness the power of big data and applied to areas of economic research? The Data Revolution wants to explore these questions and more. The Incubator welcomes proposals on any aspect of the data-intensive research, in any country or context.

The award will be for a period of 12 months and an amount up to $50,000. All projects must include at least one University of Chicago faculty member. Strong preference will be given to projects that have not yet resulted in written work.

Timeline
Call date: October 11, 2021
Application deadline: November 1, 2021
Approximate decision date: November 15, 2021
Project start date: December 1, 2021

Funding
The Incubator provides a range of funding for research proposals from exploratory proposals of up to $25,000, to more fully-formed research proposals of $50,000. Exploratory awards are intended for less mature, but very promising projects that need funding to continue new research trajectories, or can be used as seed for additional funding to another donor.

Requirements
Proposal of no more than five pages that includes the proposal type, proposed topic, timeline, research design, budget justification, and PI bio or CV. For any questions regarding proposal structure, please contact Diana Smith at dianas@uchicago.edu.

Process
Submit all proposals here. Please direct questions to Diana Smith, at dianas@uchicago.edu.
Decision
The Incubator Committee will consider proposals. Up to six grants will be made. Winners will be announced on or about November 15, 2021.

Terms and Conditions
The terms of awards are as follows:

1. Progress reporting: Researchers awarded funding for full research proposals will be required to provide a brief, two-page progress report with expenditures on a quarterly basis. A final project report and financial report must be submitted within 60 days of completion of the grant period. For pilot and proposal development grants, an annual narrative and financial report is expected, along with a final report at the end of the funding period.

2. Research publicity: The Incubator expects to publicize all research results following the approval of PIs. Communications staff will work closely with researchers to disseminate research results.

3. Participate in Incubator activities: Grantees may be requested to participate in Incubator activities when possible. Activities may include evidence workshops, presentations, conferences, and other relevant activities.

4. Credit Incubator: Any presentations and publications intended for the public domain, including policy briefs, press releases, blogs, and newsletters that emerge from projects should credit the Griffin Applied Economics Incubator as approved by Incubator PIs or staff. When appropriate, the official logos of the Griffin Incubator should also be included, subject to each institution’s prior approval.

5. Funding usage: Funds may not be used to directly support PI salary. They may be used to cover salary support for project personnel such as, but not limited to, post-doctoral scholars, research assistants, or graduate students.