

**2025-2026 GCC-ISCE SEED GRANT RFP**  
***THE GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER AT VIRGINIA TECH***  
*WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM*  
***THE FRALIN LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE &***  
***THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT***

In spring 2025, the Global Change Center (GCC) at Virginia Tech will accept proposals to support collaborative research that will lead to proposals submitted to extramural funding sources. Priority will be given to funding proposals that advance the collaborative, interdisciplinary mission of our group, promote collaboration across departments/colleges, and are most competitive for extramural support. Preference will be given to proposals from faculty members who have a demonstrated track record of participation in GCC and/or Interfaces of Global Change (IGC) IGEP activities.

Please keep in mind that our planned funding allocations are based on our current understanding of next fiscal year's budget. Should this change for any reason, we will communicate this to the community.

**There are two opportunities for funding:**

**1) Global Change.** We seek to fund collaborative research projects that deal with emerging global change issues (e.g., disease, climate change, pollution, invasive species, land use, etc.) that have regional significance, link multiple GCC faculty programs and take advantage of unique combinations of expertise at VT, have societal and/or policy implications, and have high potential to eventually leverage external resources.

For this funding opportunity, we anticipate allocating a total of approximately \$75K spread across 3-5 awards, with no further cap on the amount for individual awards.

**2) Emerging Social Aspects of Global Change.** In collaboration with the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE), we seek to fund projects led by GCC affiliated faculty that address social aspects (e.g., causes, consequences, solutions) of major global change issues (e.g., disease, climate change, pollution, invasive species, land use). The project should leverage and integrate a unique combination of social science expertise (social science faculty not required to be affiliated with GCC) with biophysical and/or engineering expertise at VT, and have high potential to eventually leverage external resources.

For this opportunity, we anticipate allocating a total of approximately \$30K spread across 1-2 awards.

**Intended use of award funds (both opportunities):** Seed grant award funds are intended to provide financial resources that will aid in the collection of new data or to conduct new work that will lead to external proposals. Requests to fund wages for students and support staff are allowable; however, salary contributions are discouraged for PIs and must be clearly justified if included. Budgeted funds should not be allocated to compensate student tuition expenses or for time spent writing grant proposals.

**Eligibility for both opportunities:** For a proposal to be considered for either opportunity, at least two faculty members affiliated with the Global Change Center should be PIs, but additional faculty from Virginia Tech and outside of the University can be part of the collaborative team(s).

**Eligibility for the Emerging Social Aspects of Global Change opportunity:** Same requirements as above, and at least one social scientist (broadly defined) must be from Virginia Tech (but does not have to be affiliated with the GCC).

**New consideration for both opportunities:** Virginia Tech is joining the [Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) in fall 2025, which will make Virginia Tech faculty eligible to compete for restricted research funding each year (\$12.5 M over 5 years, available only to NECASC institutions). If PIs intend to pursue this restricted funding as one of their external funding targets, there is an additional section in the proposal template (below) that will allow you to elaborate on how the work aligns with NECASC funding priorities.

**Timeline for both opportunities:**

**Deadline for applications is March 1, 2025.** Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications will not be considered.

**Notification of awards will be made by April 2025.**

**Anticipated start dates for projects will be July 1, 2025.** Funds will be transferred to home departments as soon as we receive them from the University.

**Because of our annual budget cycle, award funds must be spent before June 1, 2026.**

**Requirements:** These awards will provide seed money to a group of faculty PIs for data collection that will result in *submission of a collaborative proposal(s)* by **June 2027**. If you receive an award, you are committing to provide follow-up reports each year until all products resulting from the work are final (e.g., all manuscripts are published and grant proposals are submitted). Please acknowledge the Global Change Center at Virginia Tech, the Fralin Life

Sciences Institute, and ISCE (for funding opportunity #2) for support in all manuscripts, news releases, and presentations benefitting from this funding.

**Application procedure:** All applications must include:

The application should be a MAXIMUM of 3 PAGES total (to include integration of the enclosed application format), with one-inch margins and text single-spaced in Arial 11. In addition, and not counting toward the 3-page limit:

- 2-page CVs must be provided for co-PIs that are not GCC affiliated faculty. GCC faculty affiliates do not need to submit their 2-page CVs.
- A list of references cited can be added as an additional page.

**All files should be sent in a single pdf file by e-mail to Steph McBride; E-mail address:**[stephmcbride@vt.edu](mailto:stephmcbride@vt.edu).

**Label files as LAST NAME\_GCCSeedGrantApplication2025**

**Application Review Criteria for Seed Proposals:**

Applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee and by ISCE (funding opportunity #2), and funding decisions will be based on the above mentioned criteria as well as:

- Benefit of the activity to multiple GCC lab groups.
- Pertinence of global change research topic to the GCC.
- Feasibility of proposed research project.
- Strength of the project and diversity of the collaborative research team.
- Clear plan for how this support will lead to submission of a collaborative external proposal.
- Likelihood that proposal(s) produced from the work will be competitive with the identified funding entity/RFP.
- Positive track record of engagement by faculty in GCC/IGC activities.

Please direct any further questions to William Hopkins ([hopkinsw@vt.edu](mailto:hopkinsw@vt.edu)).

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## 2025 GCC SEED GRANT APPLICATION

**Do not exceed 4 pages**

(excluding CVs for non-GCC faculty & references cited)

**1. Personal Information** (provide this for each GCC faculty PI)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities on project and contribution to collaborative effort: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional non-GCC senior personnel (provide for each person, & attach 2-pg CV):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities on project: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Title of Proposed Project**

**3. Opportunity you are applying for** (*Global Change or Emerging Social Aspects of Global Change*):

**4. Brief description of Project (750 words max):**

**5. Budget (please provide brief budget justification in each section):**

Equipment, Supplies, and Materials:	
	Total: \$
Wages	
	Total: \$
Other costs (list specific items)	
	Total: \$
Total Project Costs:	\$
Total Amount Requested:	\$
Other sources of matching support, if applicable:	\$

**6. Timeline for project leading to proposal submission.**

**7. This funding is intended to lead to proposal(s) submission by June 2027.**

*List planned submission(s) here:*

*Agency:*

*RFA Title/Number (if available):*

*Target date:*

**8. If submission of a proposal to the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center is part of the above extramural funding plan, please indicate how the proposed research aligns with the CASC program and how the data obtained from this seed funding will position your team to be competitive (350 words). An example solicitation for CASC funding can be found [here](#). If pursuit of CASC funding is not anticipated, this section can be left blank.**