



Community-University Research Collaboration
Initiative (CURCI)
Collaboration Proposal 2026-2027

This proposal form is meant to be filled out by either a community organization, or a community organization in collaboration with a UTK faculty member. Faculty members without a community organization connection are not encouraged to fill out a proposal.

Please email CURCI staff (curci@utk.edu, jshefner@utk.edu, and eeast2@utk.edu) if you are unsure your project is appropriate for CURCI funding or if you have questions about the proposal process. You are also welcome to review our website for a better understanding of CURCI and previously funded projects: curci.utk.edu

The deadline for 2026-2027 collaboration proposals is May 15, 2026. Proposals will be reviewed as they come in. Please submit final collaboration proposals via the CURCI Collaboration Proposal form: tiny.utk.edu/curci2026RFP.

Organization Applying

1. Your contact email
2. The name of the person filling out this proposal
3. Your contact phone number
4. Organization name
5. Organization website, if applicable
6. Brief description of what your organization does (no more than 1 paragraph)
7. Brief description of who your organization serves (no more than 1 paragraph)
8. Is the research project you are pursuing with your organization based in Knoxville?

Non-Profit Status

Please note we only fund community-based research from non-profit organizations pursuing research projects in Knoxville.

1. Is your organization a non-profit?

Non-Profit Status or Fiscal Sponsor

CURCI funding is transferred to community organizations through a contract and payment system from UTK. Organizations must have the ability to receive funds either through their own financial account or a fiscal sponsor.

1. Do you have 501(c)3 status or another non-profit status? If not, who is your fiscal sponsor?
 - a. If you do not have either of these, please explain your plan to receive funds should you be awarded funding, including a timeline of accomplishing status or a fiscal sponsor.

Proposal

1. Briefly describe one of your current projects or campaigns that is not currently linked to CURCI funding: what are the goals, how far along are you, and whatever else you might want us to know about them. These can be completed projects/campaigns or in progress. This answer helps us know a little more about your work – you don't need to offer more than a paragraph of description.

2. Please provide a description for the collaborative research project you are proposing for this round of CURCI funding. What are some of the goals, who will it serve, what community need or problem will it address, etc. Please try to keep this description to three paragraphs.
3. What do you see as the specific project needs or processes that CURCI funding can contribute to?
4. What is the expected outcome of the collaboration for the organization?
5. What is the expected outcome of the collaboration for the faculty member?

UTK Faculty Partner

CURCI funded-projects are meant to bridge UTK faculty and community expertise.

1. Do you know a specific UTK faculty person with whom your organization would like to work? If you have not identified a faculty member to work with on this proposed project, we will be happy to make suggestions should your proposal be accepted.
2. If you have not identified a faculty person with whom you want to work, what skills or research specialties do you want that faculty partner to have? What work do you want them to accomplish over the course of the grant?
3. If you have identified a faculty person with whom you want to work, please share the name and contact information of the UTK faculty person with whom you would like to work.
 - a. Have you discussed this project proposal with this faculty member?

Project Proposal Timeline and Budget

1. Please provide a time frame for the proposed project, including starting and ending dates. Because of our fiscal year (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027), we won't be able to provide funding or support for new projects until after July 1, 2026.
2. Please suggest a preliminary budget, both for the project itself and the amount sought from CURCI. Additionally, please separate the budget by the amounts that will go directly to the organization and what will be reserved for UTK faculty, students, and/or other resources. We'll be happy to work on the budget with you. CURCI will not be able to fund projects for more than \$20,000 per fiscal year (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) including both community organization and faculty costs. Please note that faculty salary cost estimates will need to include fringe benefits (Fringe benefits for faculty can be calculated at 35.2% of amount budgeted for faculty)

Other UTK support description for 2026-2027

1. Are you currently supported or does your organization anticipate being supported by other UTK entities or UTK funding programs in the upcoming academic year (2026-2027)? This could be sponsorship, in-kind support, curriculum or lab inclusion, funding, etc.
 - a. If applicable, please describe the type(s) of UTK support your organization will be receiving in the upcoming academic year, listing UTK entities that you plan to be working with (Department name, Office or Center name, etc.).

Thanks very much for your time! Please understand that if your project is selected, we will need to meet with all parties, and discuss budget, expectations, and commitments

before the project begins. Also, if you are awarded a CURCI grant, you may be asked to rate future proposals.