



Research Catalyst Program: Call for Applications

The MS-CC Research Catalyst Program is now inviting applications from researchers, faculty, and administrators at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) interested in collaborating with the MS-CC to enhance research cyberinfrastructure (CI)¹ on their campuses. This partnership program is designed to directly support researchers and faculty by funding projects leveraging cyberinfrastructure (CI) to advance their research objectives. We aim to build connections between researchers and campus Information Technology (IT) leaders, connect campuses to national CI resources, and set them toward broader CI funding opportunities, including NSF's Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) program. This program is looking to fund up to **\$200,000** per selected project.

Program Objectives

The Research Catalyst Program will:

- Directly fund researchers, faculty, and administrators at HBCUs and TCUs for one-year projects.
- Provide insights into CI-related research activities on these campuses.
- Foster connections between researchers, campus IT leadership, and national CI resources, including Internet2.
- Enhance campus CI infrastructure and capabilities.
- Educate researchers and faculty about CI resources and potential applications.
- Inform on new approaches to increase and accelerate CI-research capacity at MS-CC campuses.

Who Should Apply?

MS-CC welcomes applications from researchers, faculty, and administrators across all disciplines, including, but not limited to, STEM fields, humanities, natural sciences, and beyond, who:

- Require CI resources to advance their research.
- Are interested in exploring CI in their research.
- Seek guidance and support in utilizing national CI infrastructure and resources.

¹ **Research cyberinfrastructure** refers to the integrated suite of advanced computing systems, data storage, high-speed networks, software, and human expertise that supports data-intensive and computational research across disciplines. It enables researchers to collect, store, analyze, and share large datasets and to collaborate effectively at local, national, and global scales.

Why Apply?

This program provides:

- A lower-effort application process compared to more formal and extensive CI grant solicitations and programs.
- Broadly applicable funding with a broad scope to support diverse research goals through CI. Some examples include:
 - **Network Infrastructure:** Upgrades to improve research lab connectivity through hardware and service investments.
 - **Identity and Access Management:** Enhancements through InCommon and eduroam memberships, including associated implementation and hardware costs.
 - **Computational Resources:** Acquisition and deployment of local or cloud-based HPC/HTC clusters and related infrastructure.
 - **Professional Development:** Training opportunities for researchers, IT staff, and CI professionals through CI-focused workshops, conferences, and programs.
 - **Community Workshops:** Support for CI workshops, aided by MS-CC and events focused on CC* grant writing and collaboration.
 - **Workforce Development:** Funding scalable workforce programs such as internships, graduate fellowships, and other skill-building initiatives.
 - **Research Data Development:** Support for data collection and transfer technologies, including IoT data acquisition, remote sensing, local storage, and high-speed transfer solutions.
- Direct CI support from MS-CC and Internet2 experts, including CI Facilitation services, CI Engineering services, Federation, and eduroam support.
- Immediate access to a network of CI resources, tools, and expertise.

Program Timeline

- **Program Announcement:** Apr 25, 2025
- **Application Deadline:** May 9, 2025 4:30 PM MDT
- **First Round Selection Announcement:** May 23, 2025
(actual funding dependent on NSF approval of subaward)

How to Apply

Please prepare an application that includes all of the following:

1. Project description, objectives, and intended impact.
2. CI needs, and how this program will support them.
3. Expected and measurable outcomes and how they contribute to the campus CI landscape. Outcomes must specifically advance science drivers and/or enhance cyberinfrastructure supporting research on the campus.
 - a. Applicants can contact the MS-CC for guidance on identifying science drivers for their project.
4. Email your applications in PDF format to aanderson@internet2.edu by 4:30 PM MDT on May 9, 2025.

Application Guidelines

1. Maximum of 5 pages (not including letters of support)
2. Your application should include a project narrative, a budget table, and a budget justification.
 - a. If your application is accepted, a scope of work will be required to issue a subaward.
3. Principal Investigator (PI) and, if any, Co-PI information
4. Required letter of support from each of the following:
 - a. President's Office and/or Office of Sponsored Research
 - b. Campus IT Leadership

Questions can be emailed to aanderson@internet2.edu.

We look forward to receiving your applications and supporting you in advancing your research with the power of cyberinfrastructure.