



# **Center for Digital Agriculture**

Seed Funding Information Session

December 6, 2019

# Seed Funding Overview

The Center for Digital Agriculture will leverage the strong tradition of team building for large long-term interdisciplinary research and education projects at Illinois.

- ▶ **What:** Up to \$25k/award in seed funding for one year. Awards will be made subject to the availability of funds and review panel recommendations.
- ▶ **Who:** Interdisciplinary teams with at least 2 PIs representing different domain areas. Proposals should be focused on a least one thematic area.
- ▶ **When:**
  - ▶ Deadline to apply is January 24, 2020 by 11:59pm CDT
  - ▶ Decisions are expected to be announced by April 1, 2020

# Themes & Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Important to includes PIs from at least two different domain areas

Example: Civil Engineering and Crop Sciences

Data



Crops and Animals

Automation



People in Agriculture

# PI Responsibilities

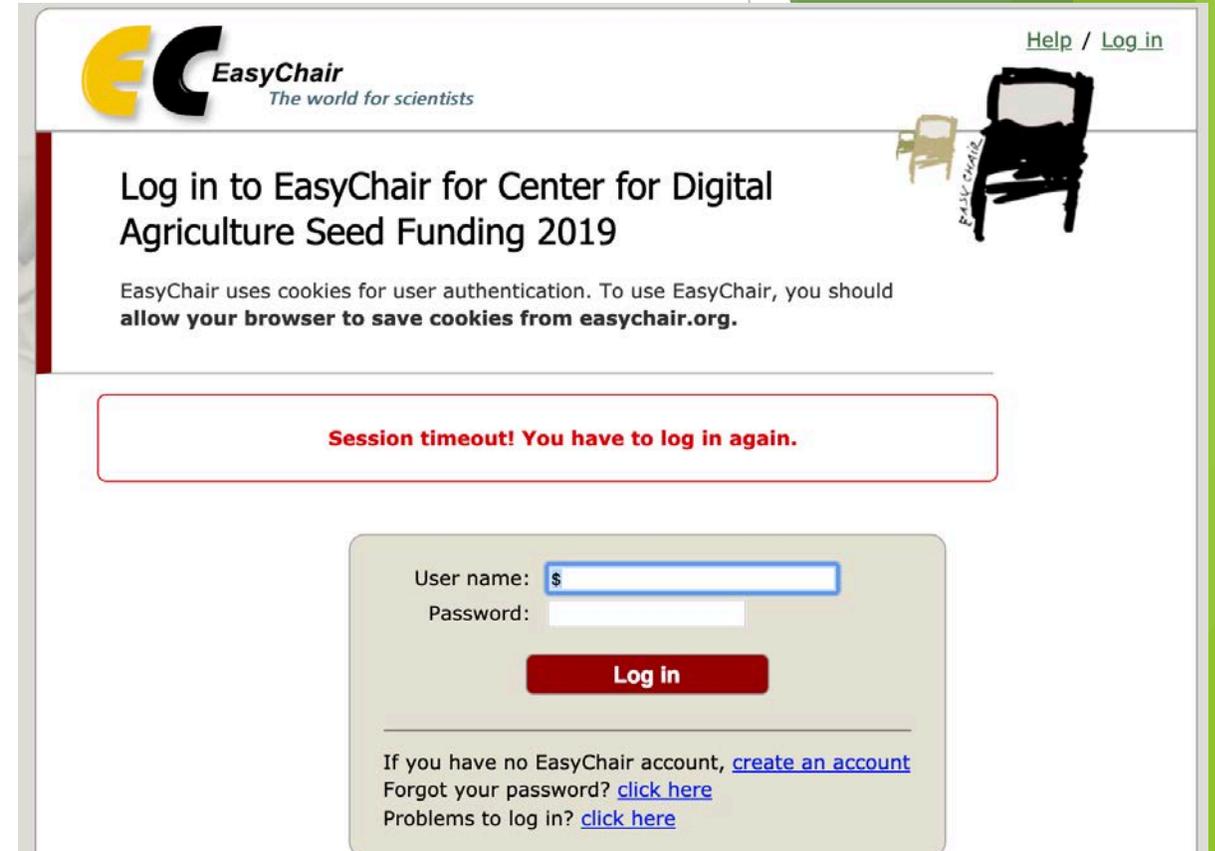
PIs are expected to:

- ▶ Provide a brief mid-year update on project progress
- ▶ Deliver a presentation during the award period and report at the conclusion of the award
- ▶ Submit proposals for external funding directly catalyzed by seed funding through the Center

# Proposal Preparation and Submission

## Required Documents

- ▶ Abstract (0.5 pages)
- ▶ Project Description (3 pages)
  - ▶ Project Significance
  - ▶ Investigators
  - ▶ Innovation
  - ▶ Approach and Future Potential
  - ▶ Environment
- ▶ References Cited
- ▶ Biosketch for each PI/Co-PI (two pages, follow NSF, AFRI or DoE format)
- ▶ Budget and Budget Justification



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Proposals should be submitted via the [EasyChair link](#) on the seed funding RFP

# Budgets

- ▶ Projects may request up to \$25k in funding for one year.
- ▶ Project budgets do not need to include benefits, tuition remission, or overhead.
- ▶ Funds may be used for:
  - ▶ Research Assistant support (GRA, postdoc, etc.),
  - ▶ Faculty summer salary,
  - ▶ research expenses and travel support directly pertaining to the development of the research project (up to \$1,500 for domestic research-related travel and higher amounts for international research-related travel if sufficiently justified.)

*Funding for travel to conferences or for capital equipment is not expected to be covered at this time.*

# Review Criteria - Key Questions

1. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?
2. If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, or clinical practice be improved?
3. Does the project include PIs from different domain areas? If the PIs have already have an existing collaboration, is this a new direction rather than a continuation of an existing project with existing funding?
4. How strong are the plans to generate ongoing external funding for the collaboration from Federal Agencies, Foundations, and/or Industry via the Center?

*Full review criteria will be listed with the request for proposals.*

# Pro-Tips for your Proposal

- ▶ Follow the proposal preparation guidelines
- ▶ Review previously funded projects to avoid duplicating ideas
- ▶ Be specific about future external funding opportunities the project intends to target
- ▶ Make concrete use of all domain areas/disciplines involved and clearly define project goals and investigator roles

Thank you!

Questions?