



Request for Proposals

2025-2026 FSU / AWS Research Acceleration Fund

Deadline to Apply: Monday, December 1, 2025

A. Purpose of the Program

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the FSU Vice President for Research have partnered to invest \$200,000 in a funding opportunity designed to advance research innovation through cloud-based technology. The program will provide faculty with up to \$20,000 in Amazon Web Services and the opportunity to be trained on how to utilize the AWS platform – a secure environment – for their research needs. While priority will be given to those requesting High-Performance Computing services, other use cases include:

- Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence: Tools for developing advanced models
 - CPU and GPU computing
- Research Collaboration: Facilitate secure collaboration among research teams
- Analytics: Suite of tools to derive research insights
- Storage: Secure, scalable storage for research data
- Virtual Desktops: Remote access to virtual workstations
- Disaster Recovery: Robust solutions to protect academic and research data
- Internet of Things (IoT): Enable sensor-driven research projects
- Website and Application Hosting: Deploy and scale academic websites and apps

Note: This is not intended for departments to handle their operational needs.

Award Information

- Award amount: This is a one-time award of up to \$20,000 in the form of AWS credits.

- Duration: 50% of the credits must be used in the first year, with a total award period of two years.
-

B. Eligibility

- Participation is open to all full-time, active-status FSU faculty (see job code eligibility list).
 - Students and post-docs are not eligible to be a PI. Undergrads, grads, Post-docs, and non-FSU can be included on the project team as Co-PIs. (Limit of 5 Co-PIs per application)
 - Prior FSU/AWS competition winners are eligible to apply.
-

C. Important Dates

- Submission Deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025
 - Award Notification: February 2026
 - Award Period Start: March 6, 2026
 - Award Period: Up to 24 months from the award period start date – 3/6/2026 – 3/5/2028
-

D. Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the selection process:

1. Relevance and Impact:

- **Service Use:** What service is requested and for what purpose? (Note: priority will be given to well-developed proposals requesting high-performance computing and/or machine learning services).
- **Alignment with Research Needs:** Does the proposal clearly identify and address the specific web service needs of the faculty?
- **Potential Impact:** How will the proposed use enhance research productivity and outcomes?

2. Feasibility and Technical Merit:

- **Technical Soundness:** Are the technical aspects of the proposal well-developed and feasible?
 - **Implementation Plan:** Is there a clear and realistic plan for developing and deploying the web services?
3. **Sustainability and Scalability:**
- **Long-term Viability:** Are there clear plans for next steps once the credits have been depleted?
4. **Budget and Resource Allocation:**
- **Statement of Need:** Is there a clear statement of need for this service?
 - **Resource Allocation:** Are the resources (personnel, technology, etc.) in place to ensure success?
-

E. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Please provide the following:

- The **title page** should include the proposal title, the name of the PI and co-PIs.
 - **Proposed research** (up to 2 pages) should provide background information, research objectives, and the rationale for needing AWS to complete their effort. Review criteria should be addressed. An estimated timeline for credit use with justification should be included in the justification. Pages must be formatted with 1" margins, utilizing 11pt Times New Roman or Arial font. Only a PDF version of your proposal will be accepted.
 - For resubmissions: Please consider prior reviewer feedback in your revision, but it is not necessary to answer these questions separately.
 - **Curriculum vitae** of the PI only, not to exceed 3 pages (in the NSF or NIH format).
 - **Current and pending funding information** for the PI and all co-PIs, not to exceed 2 pages per PI.
 - Note: The grant will only support Amazon Web Services costs. All other associated costs, including equipment purchases, ***such as computers and computing equipment***, are not allowed.
-

F. Research Compliance

- Research Data uploaded to AWS must not be sensitive information that requires additional safeguards or dissemination controls. This can include data subject to HIPAA, FERPA, export controlled, controlled unclassified information, classified information, etc.
-

G. Application Submission Process

- Go to the [Online Submissions Portal](#).
 - Complete all the sections and upload each of the required elements.
 - Applications cannot be altered after they are submitted. Please review the application prior to submission.
 - Proposals with incomplete required fields will not be reviewed.
-

H. Application Review Process

- The Review Committee will consist of selected faculty and staff from the Office of Research and Information Technology Services.
 - Reviewers will use the selection criteria cited in section E. for scoring the application.
 - The Review Committee will recommend the finalists to the VP for Research.
 - Funding decisions will be made based on the recommendations and will align with the funding allocated to the program.
-

I. Payback

- If a PI leaves the university, involuntarily or voluntarily, prior to the end of the award period, the awardee is responsible for notifying Sherry Core, and remaining credits will be reallocated.
-

If you have questions about AWS, please contact Mike Repchak (IT) at mrepchak@fsu.edu.
If you have questions about the submission portal, please contact Sherry Core (RD)
at sbcore@fsu.edu.