

Digital, Informatics and Application Launch (DIAL™)¹ 2020-21 Grant Program Announcement

Program Overview

The UC Davis Data, Informatics & Application Launch (DIAL) Grant is one of the technology proof-of-concept programs managed by Venture Catalyst in collaboration with InnovationAccess. Core funding for the DIAL Grant is provided by the Vice Chancellor for Research with supplemental funding provided by Innovation & Technology Commercialization (InnovationAccess and Venture Catalyst).

Early-stage technologies from university research are often perceived as too uncertain or too risky to attract funding to translate into commercial products or services. The lack of accessible funding creates a gap between basic research and early-stage commercialization efforts. The DIAL Grant helps bridge this gap by providing funding and resources to translate basic UC Davis research with commercial potential by demonstrating proof-of-concept and establishing market viability, thus de-risking the innovation. The ultimate objective of the program is to develop technologies that attract entrepreneurs, industry, and investors willing to commercialize UC Davis technologies, resulting in societal and economic impacts.

Successful projects will advance UC Davis data, information science or software technologies and related applications towards commercialization by achieving early research and development milestones. Outcomes that might be enabled by this program include software code, algorithms, program prototypes, platforms, or translational data that traditional research grants would not fund.

Eligibility Requirements

Projects eligible for DIAL funding will feature an early-stage technology, data science or informatics platform, software or digital health application/program that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has advanced beyond the basic research stage, but requires early proof-of-concept data to show feasibility for commercial potential
- Has demonstrated successful results in the research environment and is poised for commercialization pending a specific, targeted demonstration, test result, or prototype
- Has reached a critical stage of technology development, whereby specific questions pertaining to commercialization feasibility can be answered within the resource constraints of the program
- Has identified milestones that would overcome a specific hurdle to commercialization, enabling a technology to become more attractive for either licensing to an existing company or enabling the formation of a startup company within 1-2 years of project completion

Eligible Applicants:

- Anyone with Principal Investigator (PI) status at UC Davis is eligible to apply for a STAIR Grant
- Postdoctoral scholars and university staff may submit applications as Co-PI with an eligible PI

Grant Terms and Amounts

Up to \$40,000 in total funding is available for the DIAL Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Approved projects may be eligible for up to \$20,000 of grant support. Grants are for a single 12-month period from the date of grant funds disbursement. All submitted proposals must be limited in scope of work and budget, such that work can be completed within a 12-month period.

How to Apply

For more information and application instructions, visit the Venture Catalyst proof-of-concept programs website at: <http://research.ucdavis.edu/offices/vc/stair/>. You can email any questions you have to stairgrant@ucdavis.edu. **The application deadline is Tuesday, March 3, 2021, at 5:00 pm PST.**

¹ DIAL Grant is a trademark of The Regents of the University of California.