

## Call for Proposals: 2024-2025 CHARM Seed Grants

We are pleased to announce a call for proposals for the **2024-2025 [Center for Hybrid, Active, and Responsive Materials \(CHARM\) Seed Grant Program](#)**. The program is open to all faculty members at CHARM institutions. Seed Grants in 2024-2025 are intended to spark new research directions that are distinctly different from the current IRGs: IRG1 – Peptide Active Materials (PAMs), IRG2 – Hybrid Quantum Materials with Emergent Terahertz Functionalities (HQ-METs). The goal of the 2024-2025 Seed Grant Program is to support collaborative research that is **innovative and offers the potential to develop a new interdisciplinary research group (IRG)** for a successful MRSEC re-competition. Additionally, because CHARM is a Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, the proposed research must be in line with efforts supported by the National Science Foundation's [Division of Materials Research](#). Successful execution of the proposed research may lead to the potential for follow-on CHARM funding.

Each Seed Grant will provide up to **\$75,000** plus overhead costs for a one-year project, and must include between 2 and 4 investigators. Preference will be given to teams led by a senior faculty member that include at least one early career faculty member and/or a non-University of Delaware (UD) team member. Preference also will be given to proposals that provide funding to support researchers that are not already supported by CHARM. **It is expected that all seed proposers will contact the leader(s) of the appropriate IRG during the quad chart preparation process to gauge suitability of the seed proposal as distinctly different from the current IRGs.** The target start date for Seed Grants is September-October 2024.

### Expectations of Grantees

Grantees and their funded personnel are expected to integrate themselves into CHARM; this entails attendance at standing IRG meetings, the annual meeting, and CHARM-hosted events. A brief progress report is expected quarterly.

### How to Apply

#### Eligibility

Eligible applicants are faculty at CHARM academic institutions or staff/faculty at national labs or other academic institutions that are not currently funded by CHARM. Each applicant may participate in only one proposal in response to this call. Each applicant must identify at least one CHARM faculty collaborator. Applications from non-UD faculty/staff must have a UD-based CHARM faculty co-PI. Preference will be given to senior faculty leads with an early career collaborator or co-PI.

#### Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted in email format as a single PDF file by **11:59PM EDT on 7/1/2024 to [gregoryg@udel.edu](mailto:gregoryg@udel.edu)**. Top-ranked applicants will be notified by 7/15/2024 and asked for a more detailed 2-3 page project proposal due by 8/15/2024.

## Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals will be a one-page quad chart with the following components (see attached template).

### 1) Title block:

- Proposal title
- Names of the PI and collaborators

### 2) Goal and figure:

- Goal/objectives of the proposed collaborative activities
- Figure or graphic showing the scientific approach

### 3) Description of Scientific Approach

**4) Novelty and impact:** Provide a proposed budget and a brief justification for the following eligible costs, as applicable.

- Uniqueness
- Differentiation from existing CHARM IRGs
- Anticipated impact on CHARM research and on the overall CHARM community
- Potential for additional partners and/or larger scale funding opportunities
- Contribution of proposed activities toward diversity & inclusion, and education & outreach

### 5) Preliminary Data, Funding, Contact Info:

- Experiments necessary to prove concept or demonstrate robust scientific basis
- Funding request
- Contact information for the PI only (affiliation, email, phone number)

## Review Criteria

Primary:

- Intellectual merit of the proposed research activities, and likelihood to transition into a new Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) and contribute long-term to center activities
- Likelihood of impactful results within twelve-month timeframe
- Potential for collaborations within the CHARM research community and/or external partners
- Broader impact of the proposed research activities and synergies with CHARM [education and outreach activities](#)

Secondary:

- Potential to significantly impact the career trajectory of the participants
- Potential to contribute to the [diversity and inclusion goals](#) of CHARM

**For further questions or to request additional information, please contact Gwen Gregory (gregoryg@udel.edu).**