

# The E3C Innovation Grant 2026

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## Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1

The Educational Equity and Excellence Collaborative (The E3C) is a universitywide effort to coordinate access and success resources for students from first-generation college families and students from modest-income households. **We are excited to announce this exclusive opportunity for Rutgers faculty and staff to receive a one-time grant of up to \$25,000.** The E3C Innovation Grant can be applied to a startup opportunity, research, or to expand existing initiatives/programs that increase college access and promote undergraduate and graduate student success for first-generation students.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, April 3, 2026, by end of day.**

Grant Period	Proposal Due Date	Notification	Project Start/End Dates
Summer 2026-Spring 2027	Friday, April 3, 2026	On/about Monday, May 8, 2026	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Q2

### Selection Criteria

- **Impact on students:** Will the proposed project help Rutgers University increase undergraduate/graduate enrollment and success of first-generation students and/or students from modest-income households? Additionally, does the proposal build institutional capacity to achieve this goal over a two to three-year time frame?
- **Alignment to Rutgers Strategic/Master Plan goals:** Does the proposed work encompass efforts to recruit, enroll, support, or graduate first-generation students and/or students from modest-income households?
- **Sustainability:** Does the proposed work demonstrate promise to serve students over the near-future (2026–2027) and long-term (2027 and beyond)?
- **Demonstrated institutional support/investment:** Does the initiative/program have dedicated or planned funds to support the continued management, implementation, and scale of this project over time? Beyond direct financial backing, please describe non-monetary commitments such as the allocation of staff time, access to facilities or technology, and the formal integration of the project into the long-term strategic priorities of the department, school, or chancellor-led unit (CLU).
- **Community-Building:** Does the proposed project or program include multiple partners across departments and/or Rutgers institutions? If new research, does it contribute new knowledge to the field?

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee that includes the Offices of the Chancellors and/or their designees.

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Q3

**Eligibility**

- All Rutgers faculty and staff are eligible to submit one proposal per program, department, or group.
  - Joint proposals with another CLU or department(s) are eligible for consideration. The maximum award is up to \$25,000 per project. Only one submission is required. Partners must identify a primary grantee and the primary grantee is responsible for redirecting funds to their partner(s).
  - In addition to applications for projects, programs, initiatives, etc., proposals to engage internal or external consultants in support of the outlined goal(s) will be considered. Consultant activities may include materials development and research.
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Q4

**Post-Grant Requirements**

Awardees will be required to:

- Submit the project's appropriate unit or institutional contact and account information to receive payment via Journal Entry. The E3C will liaise with the representative throughout the payment process.
  - Submit a 600-word minimum final narrative report detailing the project background, objectives, key accomplishments, takeaways, and expenditures. The report will be due 90 days after the project's end date. A template for this report will be shared along with the award notification.
  - Participate in at least two update sessions, interviews, or presentations with the E3C staff over the course of the 2026-27 academic year.
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Q5 Applicant Information

Applicant Full Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Role (Staff, Faculty, etc.) (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Title at Rutgers University (if applicable) (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Department/Program/Group Affiliation (5)  
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Applicant Email (4) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q6 Co-Applicant Information (if applicable)

Applicant Full Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Role (Staff, Faculty, Student) (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Title at Rutgers University (if applicable) (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Department/Program/Group Affiliation (5)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Email (4) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q7 If collaborating (recommended) with other departments, programs, or groups, briefly outline the partnership details.

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Q8 Project Period

- Summer 2026 (June 1 - August 31, 2026) (2)
  - Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 (September 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027) (1)
  - Other (please specify) (6)
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Q9 If your project is expected to take place during Summer 2026, by when would you need to be notified in order to execute the project effectively?

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Q10 Which of the following categories best describes the primary target audience of your proposal? *Select all that apply.*

- Precollege Students (2)
  - Undergraduate Students (4)
  - Graduate students/Post-baccalaureate students (3)
  - Faculty/Staff (5)
  - Other (6) \_\_\_\_\_
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Q11 Project Title

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Q12

I. **Project/Program Summary** (300 words or less)

a. Context or background – Provide an overview of your proposed or existing initiative. Is this proposal based on a unique initiative, or is it inspired by similar projects at other institutions? b. Goals and anticipated outcomes – Specify the objectives of the proposed initiative and the expected impact. c. Student Population – Estimate the number of first-generation/students from modest-income households that this initiative aims to serve. Include relevant details such as demographic data. d. Alignment with Rutgers Priorities – Refer to the Chancellor’s Academic Master Plan for details on your location.

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Q13 e. In 50 words or less, clearly describe the main goal of your project or program and the key outcome or deliverable you expect to achieve if awarded this grant. Focus on the impact, objectives, and measurable results of your initiative. This description will also be used for promotional materials if project is selected.

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Q14 II. **Sustainability Narrative** (300 words or less) Describe how you plan to secure funding after the grant period ends and explain the key learning outcomes that could support future replication of the initiative.

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Q15 The maximum allowable request for this grant is \$25,000. However, please be aware that The E3C historically receives a high volume of competitive applications and often awards grants at amounts lower than the maximum ceiling to support a broader range of initiatives.

To ensure your project can move forward even if requested funding is not awarded in full, you are welcomed to submit two budget scenarios:

- 1. Tier A (Full Request):** Your ideal budget for the complete scope of work (up to \$25,000).
- 2. Tier B (Scaled Request):** A modified budget at a lower amount that focuses on the project's core essentials.

**Important Note:** Submitting a "Tier B" lower-amount budget will not penalize your application or signal a lack of confidence in your primary proposal. On the contrary, demonstrating fiscal flexibility and a clear understanding of your project's "minimum viable" requirements is viewed as a sign of strong planning. If the committee is unable to fund the full \$25,000 request, having a pre-calculated secondary budget allows us to offer immediate partial funding rather than an outright rejection.

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Q16

III. **Proposed Budget (Tier A-Full Request)** Totaling up to \$25,000 and a brief description of expenses for each of the lines below (if applicable):

Personnel (e.g., .25 FTE project manager) (4)

\_\_\_\_\_

Consultants (e.g., on-campus or external contacts to engage) (5)

\_\_\_\_\_

Direct Costs (e.g., supplies, food, materials printing, technology purchases, etc.) (6)

\_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) (7)

\_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) (8)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Budget** (9) \_\_\_\_\_

Q17

III. **Proposed Budget (Tier B-Scaled Request)** Totaling between \$12,00-\$15,000 and a brief description of expenses for each of the lines below (if applicable):

Personnel (e.g., .25 FTE project manager) (4)

\_\_\_\_\_

Consultants (e.g., on-campus or external contacts to engage) (5)

\_\_\_\_\_

Direct Costs (e.g., supplies, food, materials printing, technology purchases, etc.) (6)

\_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) (7)

\_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) (8)

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**Total Budget** (9) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q18 Please describe how your project plan adapts between the two budget tiers. We are interested in understanding which activities would be prioritized in the Tier B scenario.

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Q19

**IV. Supplemental Funding** (300 words or less):

If applicable, indicate the estimated total funds or resources your CLU has allocated to support your project this year. Briefly describe these resources (e.g. personnel allocations, partial or full institutional matching, long-term financial commitments or investments, fundraising efforts, etc.).

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Q20 Any questions or concerns can be directed to Tania Tabora at [ttabora@rutgers.edu](mailto:ttabora@rutgers.edu)

End of Block: Default Question Block

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