



**One Health Institute  
Office of the Vice President for Research**

**Request For Proposals:**

**Addressing an Ecosystem Health Challenge Through the One Health Approach**  
**Faculty Pilot Grant Funding**

**Background:** The One Health Institute recognizes the health of people, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The impacts of climate change, land use change, emerging infectious diseases and other drivers pose tremendous challenges for human, animal, plant and ecosystem health; and impacts will likely accelerate over the next century. The One Health framework, understanding the interconnectedness among health of ecosystems, humans, animal and plants, lends itself to solution-oriented approaches to address an ecosystem health issue that affects the health of humans, animals and plants. **The CSU One Health Institute (OHI) is funding a pilot grant program to support interdisciplinary implementation of One Health projects by CSU faculty around the theme of “Ecosystem Health Challenges”.** An "ecosystem health challenge" within a One Health project would focus on addressing threats to the health of an ecosystem, recognizing that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are interconnected, and taking action to mitigate issues like habitat loss, biodiversity decline, pollution, and climate change which can impact both human and animal health within that ecosystem (*see illustrative project examples on page 5*).

CSU has world class programs across all eight colleges that can collectively identify and offer unique solutions to address complex health and disease problems affecting ecosystems, humans, animals and plants. Implementation of the One Health approach is now incorporated into many high-level documents by the Biden-Harris Administration, WHO and others; and federal agencies, nonprofits, private sector and philanthropists are aligning to support transformational ideas in this space. This RFP is offered as pilot funding for CSU faculty to form interdisciplinary teams to address a health and/or disease ecosystem health challenge that affects the health of humans, animals and/or plants to better position them for competitive extramural funding in the next 1-3 years.

Competitive proposals will clearly articulate:

1. A vision for a pilot project that aligns interdisciplinary expertise to implement the One Health approach to address a health or disease issue in an ecosystem-based project.
2. The problem being addressed: *must* include aspects of *ecosystem, human, and animal health*; +/- plant health.
3. Inclusion of an interdisciplinary team from at least two categories and CSU colleges as outlined below.
4. Well-considered, specific extramural funding targets.
5. The nature of logistical support that will be required for follow-on funding success.

While inclusion of external stakeholders and partners are encouraged, given the nature of available funds, all expenditures must be managed via CSU accounts (i.e., subawards and contracts with external sources are not allowable).

## Funding Opportunity:

**Proposals are now being accepted for 2025.** The deadline for submission is Friday January 31, 2025 at 5:00 pm MT (via CSU's Infoready Review system, see below).

Email questions to [Onehealth\\_contact@mail.colostate.edu](mailto:Onehealth_contact@mail.colostate.edu)

**Pilot funding** (up to \$40k) will be awarded to interdisciplinary research teams developing a new or supporting a current research partnership addressing a One Health issue around the theme of "Ecosystem Health Challenges" with a specific target for external funding before the end of the pilot grant award period. We anticipate funding 2-4 pilot grant proposals.

- **Focus of Grants:** Funding is available for a single year and will support research that will improve our understanding of or improve our response to a health or disease issue through an ecosystem-based project to improve the health of people, animals, and the environment. The OHI pilot grant will only consider proposals that include aspects of *ecosystem, human, and animal health*; +/- plant health.
- **Eligibility:** Interdisciplinary teams of faculty and staff in any program from two or more of the eight CSU colleges.
- **Duration of Funding:** Funding will be effective February 28, 2025 – February 28, 2026.
- **Requirements for Recipient:** Written Final report; Mid-year and Final Oral presentation of results.
- **Publications:** Recipients of any grant from the OHI are strongly encouraged to publish their findings in a peer-reviewed journal. All such publications must acknowledge funding provided by the Colorado State University One Health Institute. The CSU OHI would appreciate receiving an electronic copy of publications resulting from support by OHI grants.
- **Acknowledgment:** Publications resulting from support by OHI grants should include the following acknowledgement: *This project was supported (or supported in part) by the One Health Institute, Colorado State University.*

## Deadlines for 2025 One Health Institute Pilot Grant Awards

DECEMBER 15, 2024	RFP ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASE
JANUARY 31, 2025	APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE (5:00 PM MT)
FEBRUARY 28, 2025	AWARD NOTIFICATION AND START DATE
FEBRUARY 28, 2026	AWARD COMPLETION DATE
MARCH 31, 2026	FINAL REPORT DUE

## Guidelines for Proposals:

**Format:** Applications must be submitted using the guidelines below. For the body of the proposal, use one-inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom, and 12-point type. For clarity, avoid abbreviations and acronyms whenever possible. All pages after the title page must be numbered, with the number in the lower right corner. The PI's last name must be placed in the upper right corner (header) of all pages after the title page. Each proposal component (1-4, below) must be uploaded into the submission system as **separate PDF files**.

### 1) Title Page and Abstract (1 page):

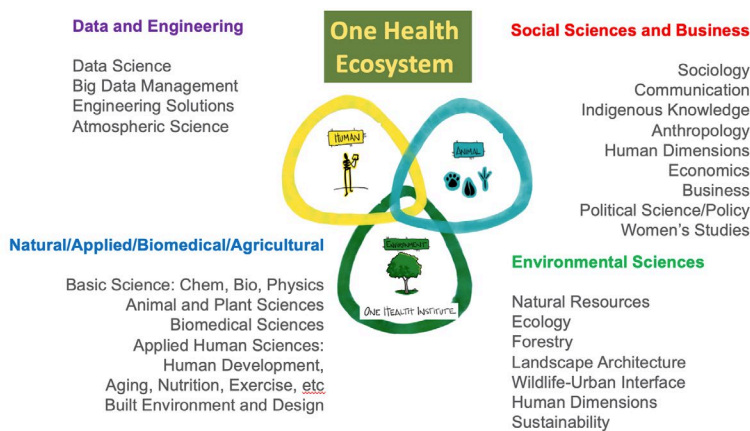
1. **Investigators; Departments and Colleges; E-mail**
2. **Title of Proposed Research**

3. **Proposal Abstract: (Do not exceed ½ page)**

- a. Description of the Ecosystem health challenge and rationale to address a One Health problem.
- b. How the goals of the proposal will provide resources, improve our understanding of, or help address an ecosystem health challenge that impacts human and animal health within that ecosystem
- c. Description of Team
- d. Contribution to Implementation of the One Health Approach

2) **Research Proposal (7 pages):**

1. **Background:** Clearly articulate the ecosystem health or disease problem to be addressed; provide a description of the interconnected nature and how the health or disease issue is impacting the health of people and animals, +/- plants. Define the scope of the proposed project and feasibility for completion during grant award period. Provide justification of how the proposal includes aspects of *ecosystem, human, and animal health*; +/- plant health.
2. **Project Overview:** Describe project overarching question, objectives/aims, rationale, general approach/experimental design/analysis, anticipated findings, potential pitfalls.
3. **Interdisciplinary Teaming:** Describe how at least two of the following four disciplinary categories are represented by team members from at least two CSU colleges (see Figure 1 for examples of sub-disciplinary topics).
  - a. **Data Sciences and Engineering**, including data and computer science, atmospheric science, mathematics, etc.
  - b. **Social Sciences**, including behavioral science, economics, business, liberal arts, artistry, etc.
  - c. **Natural, Biological, Biomedical, Animal, and Applied Sciences**, including chemistry, physics, biology, clinical human and veterinary science, etc.
  - d. **Environmental Sciences**, including natural resources, ecology, etc.



**Figure 1.** Examples of subdisciplinary topics included in larger One Health teaming areas. Other subdisciplinary topic areas within these general categories can be represented, and some subdisciplines could readily be defined in multiple categories.

4. **Team Infrastructure Needs:** Define administrative, logistical and training support that will be needed for successful outcomes, including, but not limited to: Team training and logistical support, Identification of funding opportunities, Development of large extramural proposal, Development support, etc.
5. **Training:** Describe how the project will support undergraduate, graduate and professional student, and post-doctoral education.

6. **Follow-on Funding:** Provide a description of how team efforts will be supported following completion of the pilot award by providing *specific* RFP, programs, foundations, industry partners, or other extramural sources, including intended date of application(s), and anticipated award amount. Letters of support, copies of RFP text, and other items that indicate consideration of extramural support that will supersede pilot funding are encouraged.

### 3) Proposed Budget:

Please provide a proposed line-item budget and succinct budget justification.

### 4) Appendices (compiled into one single pdf, in this order):

1. **Literature Cited**
2. **Project Timeline** (in table or figure format)
3. **NIH or NSF Formatted Biosketches of Key Investigators**
4. **Letters from Collaborating Investigators**, if applicable
5. **Approved or Submitted Permits**, if applicable
6. **Approved IACUC or IRB**, if applicable for funding to begin

### Submission Process:

Proposals are due by **5:00 p.m. MT on January 31, 2025**, and must be submitted through the CSU InfoReady Review system (<https://colostate.infoready4.com/>). The system will not accept proposals after 5:00 p.m., and no late proposals will be accepted.

### Accessing the CSU InfoReady Review system to submit:

1. From the opportunities list found at <https://colostate.infoready4.com/>, locate the “CSU – Addressing an Ecosystem Health Challenge Through the One Health Approach Faculty Pilot Grand Funding” opportunity, and click on the title to open the opportunity information page.
2. From the opportunity page, click on “Apply”.
3. Log into the system by clicking on the blue “Colorado State University Login” button and using your CSU NetID and password.
4. Complete all fields and upload all required components. You can save your application as a draft prior to submission.
5. Be sure to “Submit” your proposal. Proposals left as “draft” will not be reviewed.

For questions regarding submission to the InfoReady Review system, please contact:

Lynn Bruning ([lynn.bruning@colostate.edu](mailto:lynn.bruning@colostate.edu))

### Proposal Review:

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of internal and external reviewers with expertise in implementing the One Health approach. Proposals will be ranked according to:

- Justification of how the proposal includes aspects of *ecosystem, human, and animal health*; +/- plant health

- Clarity of goals and alignment with implementing a One Health project through an ecosystem-based project to improve the health of people, animals, and the environment
- Feasibility for completion during project period
- Multidisciplinary approach and plans for team integration and success
- Clearly articulated and attainable goals
- Plan for follow-on funding and/or activities/products

***Illustrative (i.e., not limited to) examples of the types of projects responsive to this call:***

- Assessing the specific environmental stressors affecting an ecosystem, including land use changes, pollution, invasive species, and climate change, and how these factors impact human and animals (domestics, wildlife) populations.
- Involving local communities in understanding an environmental challenge and developing solutions to improve the health of the community, people and animals.
- Studying how environmental changes can increase the risk of diseases spreading between animals (domestic, wildlife) and people.
- Investigating an issue focusing on how habitat loss due to deforestation impacts human and animal health through disruption of ecosystem services.
- Addressing water pollution that affects aquatic ecosystems impacting human and animal health, potentially leading to issues such as outbreaks of waterborne diseases or increased exposure to contaminants.
- Analyzing how climate change is altering ecosystem dynamics and creating new health risks for humans and animals, such as changes in disease vectors.
- Address how promoting practices like reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and conservation corridors would improve ecosystem health and the people and animals within that ecosystem, and opportunities to mitigate environmental impact
- Assessing how the health of soil ecosystems, supported by diverse soil organisms, impacts the broader functioning of ecosystems (and the people, animals and plants that live within them), such as nutrient cycling, water retention, carbon storage, animal biodiversity etc.