UAB Grand Challenge Full Proposal
Request for Proposals

Introduction
The UAB strategic plan 2018-2023 “Forging the Future” provides a guide for our continued success as a world-class university. Our record in teaching, scholarship, patient care, and service demonstrates a rich history of serving society. Going forward, we will muster our individual and collective strengths to address significant and pressing needs resulting in positive and tangible outcomes for our university, our city, our state, and society overall. In other words, we will define Grand Challenges, address them, and work toward solutions.

What is a Grand Challenge?
Simply put, a Grand Challenge is a significant problem that when solved will positively impact a large number of people and society in general. It is large in scope and results from complex causes. Progress towards solutions requires a combination of innovative approaches, technologies, treatments, and/or policies. Interdisciplinary and convergent approaches are essential. Grand Challenges examples include:

- Remove the threat of nuclear war from the world
- Provide access to clean water in India
- Reduce obesity in America
- Transition Los Angeles County to 100% sustainability by 2050
- Birmingham: The (healthiest/most livable/best public art) city in America

The UAB Grand Challenge will serve as an opportunity to unite university activities (teaching, research, scholarship, commercialization, patient care, service) along with the capabilities of partnering organizations to solve large-scale problems. It is not intended to hinder individual or departmentally-based activities, but instead to augment and enhance them. The UAB Strategic Investment Fund will provide substantial funding for one or more Grand Challenge efforts, provided that the support is matched from other sources with new and/or verifiable in-kind support. A UAB Grand Challenge may be supported from the Strategic Investment Fund for up to 5 years.

Full Proposal Guidelines for Submission
The submission of a planning grant is a pre-requisite to submit a full proposal. Total UAB Strategic Initiative Fund support for the UAB Grand Challenge program will be approximately $1,000,000 per year for three to five years, after which time projects should be externally supported. It is anticipated that one proposal will be funded. Planning grant teams are invited to submit a full proposal of approximately 15 pages, which includes the following:

- Title page (not included in page count)
  - Name of the UAB Grand Challenge;
  - Name and contact information for the Principal Investigator (must be UAB faculty or staff);
  - List of identified and team members (individuals and/or organizations) and their roles in the project. This includes members from inside and outside of UAB;

- Description of the problem to be addressed, including its importance to the State of Alabama and how it is generalizable to other states, the US, and the world;

- Short-term and long-term objectives, including an impact statement;

- Description of the alignment between the proposed UAB Grand Challenge objectives and the university’s strategic priorities;
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- Timeframe to accomplish the project goals including milestones;
- Implementation plan;
- Specific and general approaches to securing external support for project sustainability beyond 5 years;
- Short biosketches of the leadership team and a description of their commitment to the UAB Grand Challenge (not included in page count);
- Letters of support, including from all collaborating deans and entities (not included in page count);
- A detailed and realistic resourcing plan to include faculty/staff costs, space needs, and programmatic costs. This should include indications of commitment for all cost matching, faculty hires, space allocation, and other costs (not included in page count).

Proposal Evaluation
In evaluating the full proposals, the following criteria will be considered:
- Importance of the issue to be addressed;
- Ability to achieve success;
- Opportunity to gain national pre-eminence for UAB;
- Alignment with UAB’s strategic priorities;
- Potential for real interdisciplinarity and/or convergence;
- Qualifications of the PI and leadership team;
- Potential to utilize and build university strengths;
- Potential for engagement of many/all facets of the university – research, scholarship, teaching, service, patient care, student life, community engagement, alumni, athletics, etc.;
- Partnerships with stakeholders outside the university;
- Realism of the budget and justification;
- Strength of the implementation plan;
- Potential ability to attract sustainable external funding.

Reporting
The following reporting requirements and reviews are applied to the UAB Grand Challenge project(s):
- Brief quarterly report on project status, cost, schedule, and risk mitigation;
- Detailed annual report due on the anniversary the project start date;
- Extensive project review in year 3;
- Final review at the conclusion of the project;

Other Important Information
Full proposals are due by January 31, 2019.
Submit the complete proposal as a single PDF to grandchallenge@uab.edu.
The submission of a planning grant is a pre-requisite to submit a full proposal.
Annual funding will be contingent upon successful completion of milestones as described in the proposal and detailed in the annual reports and reviews.