UAB Grand Challenge Planning Grant
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.

Planning Grant Guidelines for Submission
The planning grant is intended to provide resources to further develop ideas, facilitate team formation, and engage stakeholder community networks. As a result of planning grant activities, Grand Challenge teams will be better equipped to propose projects with large societal impact. Funding may be used to organize activities such as workshops, conferences, travel, and time to support team formation, nurture external relationships, fill expertise gaps, and identify specialized resources. The deliverable expected at the conclusion of the planning grant period is a full proposal.

Total support for planning grants will be approximately $150,000. It is anticipated that up to five proposals will be funded. Proposals should be 5 pages in length (12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins) and should include 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 potential team members (individuals and/or organizations) and their roles. 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;
- Description of the planning process, including timeline for the submission of a full proposal;
- Budget and budget justification (not included in page count);
- Biosketches of the Principal Investigator and leadership team members (not included in page count).

Proposal Evaluation

In evaluating the planning grant proposals, the following criteria will be considered:

- Importance of the Grand Challenge and how it will generate institutional and public excitement;
- Alignment with 2018 UAB’s strategic priorities;
- Plan for developing and submitting a UAB Grand Challenge full proposal including creating the opportunity for interdisciplinarity and/or convergence;
- Qualifications and roles of the management team;
- Potential for engagement of many facets of the university – research, scholarship, teaching, service, patient care, student life, community engagement, alumni, athletics, etc.;
- Potential for partnerships with stakeholders outside the university;
- Realistic budget and justification for the Planning Grant (funding cannot be used for labor).

Other Important Information

Planning Grant proposals are due by September 30, 2018
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.