ART: InTRO Scoping Translational Research Projects RFP

ART: InTRO Background

The ART: InTRO project funded by the National Science Foundation (Grant 2331409) supports the process of research findings being translated into processes and products for use by the public, industry, government, and others.

ART: InTRO Scoping Translational Research Projects (Scoping TRP) Request for Proposals.

To increase translational research at OU, the ART: InTRO Scoping Translational Research Project (Scoping TRP) program funds projects that build on a researcher's existing work to create tangible solutions that benefit society. The "Scoping TRP" funding opportunity supports researchers to develop the idea for a translatable research project over a 3-month period. By seeding these projects, the ART: InTRO team incentivizes researchers who have not yet considered translating their work to interact with the OU and Oklahoma innovation ecosystem. Through these actions, OU will grow the number of researchers across campus pursuing translational research.

The goals of this program are to:

- Support researchers in taking the next steps to translate their research – building teams and finding complementary expertise.
- Create a broader base of faculty, grad students and postdoctoral researchers interested in translational research.

ART: InTRO Scoping TRP details

Up to 5 Scoping TRP teams will access up to $15,000 in direct costs to undertake translational research activities for a selected consecutive 3-months within a 7-month period. Candidate Scoping TRP teams look to develop a concept or prototype that emerged from prior fundamental research from across the full spectrum of OU research activities. This concept could be used in pursuing a future ART: InTRO Translational Research Project (TRP) proposal. Applications are open to individuals and teams of faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students. For Scoping TRP teams with faculty leads, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students are encouraged to be part of the team.

Important dates

- RFP Announced: November 19, 2025
- Info Session 1: December 3, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST
- Info Session 2: January 14, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST
- Info Session 3: February 02, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST
- Optional Proposal Feedback Window: February 1-15, 2026.
  (Please allow 10 days to receive feedback)
- Submission window: March 1-16, 2026.
  Deadline: March 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CST
- Awards Announced: May 5, 2026

- Funds available starting: June 1, 2026
- Scoping TRP funds end: December 30, 2026

Participation requirements

- Define Project Timeline and Milestones. Participating Scoping TRP teams must develop a project timeline and milestones based on ART: InTRO team feedback by June 30, 2026. This should include at least two meetings with the ART: InTRO project developers, such as the software developer and/or the innovation Hub (iHub) Fabrication Lab leadership.
- Participate in Monthly meetings. Scoping TRP teams meet individually with the ART: InTRO leadership at least once per month to ensure project timeline and milestone progress.
- ART: InTRO Ambassador. Scoping TRP participants funded by this initiative will participate in ART: InTRO events and serve as ART Ambassadors who share their experiences and the benefits of research translation both on the OU campus and externally.

Proposal Instructions

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Please follow these instructions when creating the two-page (excluding appendices) proposal:

1. Place title of your document in bold, centered at the top of your page.
2. Place the name and department of the PI and any Co-PIs on the first line after the title
3. In paragraph format, answer the Four Questions listed in the ART TRP Proposal Guidance section.
4. Provide a Timeline with Milestones and Deliverables, Budget and an Exit Strategy.
5. Appendices
    a. Appendix A: References. Style is the author's choice, but please make sure it is consistent.
    b. Appendix B: Department Head/ Faculty Advisor Letter of Support based on the provided template.
        i. For faculty applicant leads, the Letter of Support should indicate how the project aligns with current and/or planned P&T guidelines and post-tenure review.
        ii. For graduate students/postdocs, the Letter of Support should state how the ART project aligns with your current position.
6. Save as PDF and upload as a single file to the submission site: https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_d0xMTTn97P0FGCy

Proposal Guidance

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"Project title inserted here"

PI: Name, Department

Co-PI(s): Name, Department; Name, Department; Name, Department

Four Questions:

- **What problem will be addressed?**
  - Explain the problem, pain points, who experiences the pain points.
  - Explain the impact of the problem and how the problem can be measured.

- **What have others done to solve the problem?**
  - Provide a focused literature review that defines the current approach(es) to solving this problem, use citations

- **Why has the problem not been solved (what is the gap)?**
  - Identify why the gap remains (Feasibility, Cost, Risks, etc.) and provide supporting citations.
  - Explain the barriers to solving the problem(s).

- **How will you explore developing a translatable solution? What is the innovation?**
  - State the challenge(s) your research will address.
  - Articulate the innovation (i.e., How will you approach creating a solution that is better than the current practice?) Include:
    - How this project translates your prior fundamental research
    - Previous funding related to this and future funding you hope to secure
    - Whether you already disclosed or patented this work
  - State the impact the solution will have on society.

Additional details:

- **Please include a timeline with milestones and deliverables, budget, and an exit strategy**
  - Timeline with milestones and deliverables, see example below:

	Milestone (M) & Deliverable (D) Descriptions	Proposed Dates
A1	*Finalize project scope*	
M1.1	*Meeting with ART: InTRO team to discuss project*	
D1.1	*Final project plan and research strategy*	
A2	*Translational Research Activity 2 (Example: Conceive Prototype)*	
M2.1	*Insert Milestone 2.1: Example: Meet with ART project development resources*	
M2.2	*Milestone 2.2*	
D2.2	*Insert Translational Research Deliverable 1*	
A3	Translational Research Activity 3: *(Example: Engage with potential users)*	
M3.1	*Insert Milestone 3.1: Example: Meet with 2 potential users*	
D3.1	*Insert Deliverable 3.1: Example: Develop a project pitch*	
A4	Close out project	
D4	*Insert Deliverable 4 (Final report)*	

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- **Budget.** In 1-2 lines per activity type, please present how you propose to expend the Scoping TRP Funds in one year. Please include 35% for fringe benefits, if applicable. *(Example: Materials to build prototype: $2,000; Gift cards to incentivize potential customer interviews: $10/card: $500 total)*
- **Exit strategy.** In one sentence, state your next steps following participation in NSF ART: InTRO Scoping TRP, if awarded. Be specific in what you plan to do after completing your final deliverable. (Example: "*After participation in NSF ART: InTRO, we will < pursue startup funding through Startup OU, or submit to a funding opportunity, or disclose our technology, or … >.*"

Appendix A: References / Citations.
Appendix B: Department Head / Advisor Support Letter.

Proposal Guidance

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Department/School Head Letter of Support

[Your Department's Letterhead]

[Date]

Dear NSF ART: InTRO TRP Review Committee,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for [Applicant's Full Name] in their application for the National Science Foundation's Accelerating Research Translation: Intensifying Translational Research in Oklahoma (ART: InTRO) 2026 Scoping Translational Research Project funding opportunity. As the [Chair/Director] of the [Department/Unit Name] at the University of Oklahoma, I fully endorse their proposed project, titled "[Project Title]," and believe it aligns strongly with the goals and mission of our department/unit. Because this aligns with the goals and mission of our [department / unit], our [Department/Unit] process to amend promotion and tenure metrics will [insert effort towards expanding promotion and tenure metrics to include translational research activities].

Please feel free to contact me at [email address] or [phone number] if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this endorsement.

Sincerely,

[Department Head or Director's Full Name, Title]
[Department/Unit Name]
University of Oklahoma