

Faculty Evaluation and Development (FEAD) Grant GUIDELINES

Revised – July 2026

A Faculty Evaluation and Development (FEAD) grant provides monetary assistance to faculty members for the purpose of pursuing areas of professional development that address the university's priorities and/or department, college, or university strategic plans.

Priorities cover the following five areas: 1) academic excellence; 2) student success; 3) research, scholarship, creative work and innovation; and 4) faculty success.

FEAD applications will be reviewed on a very competitive basis. The link to identified areas of development in the faculty member's Plan of Work (made in conjunction with their annual review) must be clear and strongly supported to be considered for funding.

Eligibility

[RIT guidelines](#) stipulate that all tenure-track faculty, senior lecturers, principal lecturers, and lecturers with multiple year contracts may apply for FEAD grants.

Guidelines

- FEAD funds must be used in conjunction with all current RIT and NTID travel policies.
- FEAD grants should be linked to a faculty member's Plan of Work (POW) developed in conjunction with the annual review. When the faculty member's current POW identifies a professional development activity that would strengthen their performance, this activity is eligible for FEAD support.
- **While the committee recognizes the value of scholarly dissemination, FEAD requests will not be approved solely because a faculty member's departmental or individual travel allocation has been spent or otherwise committed.** FEAD funding is not a replacement for, or extension of, departmental travel funds. Requests to present at conferences, deliver workshops, or participate in similar dissemination activities must demonstrate a clear professional development purpose beyond the presentation itself and detail how it is prescribed by the individual's POW.
- FEAD grants may not be used to cover payments for services provided by third parties, except where the service is related to the provision of access.
- FEAD grants may not be applied to credit-bearing courses: see [policy E16.0](#) for guidance in this area.
- The professional development activities eligible for FEAD grants should address department or college educational goals, or college/university strategic plans.

- Examples of activities supported by FEAD funds include:
 - Attending workshops or other types of training
 - assistance in course development
 - books and other supplies
 - initiating a new scholarship activity
 - becoming active in a professional association in one's discipline.
- FEAD grants cannot be accessed for international travel.
- FEAD applications cannot be submitted in support of retroactive activities/expenses.
- Activities that are fully funded through other professional development programs will not be considered for FEAD grants.
- Preference will be given to faculty members who have not received prior FEAD funding.
- Faculty needing interpreting services at off-site locations need to first negotiate for interpreter support at the site and, if necessary, include these expenses in their budget. Interpreting expenses associated with approved FEAD requests are typically funded by the NTID President/Dean's office.
- The faculty member's proposal for funding must be accompanied by a statement from the department chair, or, in the case of a proposal submitted by a chairperson/administrator, the next level of supervision. A form for the chairperson's statement is attached. (If travel funds are sought, the chairperson should stipulate that the applicant's travel allotment has already been expended or committed.)
- It is expected that the faculty member and chairperson will report on the impact on the faculty member's performance resulting from the FEAD-sponsored project in the subsequent annual review and POW cycle. **Grant recipients must submit an evaluation of their FEAD-supported activity typically within one semester of the completion of the activity** and share their experiences with others to disseminate the knowledge gained through this opportunity. The final evaluation report should be sent to Todd Pagano (tepnts@rit.edu).

Application Procedure

Step One

Applications for FEAD funds and accompanying statement from the department chair must be submitted electronically to Todd Pagano (tepnts@rit.edu).

Step Two

FEAD proposals are first reviewed by the NTID dean's budget staff to verify that appropriate accounting protocols are being followed.

Step Three

Once the accounting review is complete, a proposal is reviewed by the FEAD faculty committee, which makes a recommendation to the dean to support or not support the proposal.

Step Four

Having reviewed the proposal and the committee's recommendation, the dean decides whether to support the proposal. If the dean disagrees with the committee's recommendation, he or she will communicate this to the committee. In a situation where the dean and the committee cannot reach consensus regarding an award, the president will be the final arbiter.

Step Five

Final notification of the FEAD grant will come from the Office of the Dean in the form of an e-mail with copy to the department chair and department budget staff assistant, who is responsible for monitoring the FEAD grant expenses.

Reimbursement Procedure

Reimbursement occurs when the department budgetary staff assistant completes a journal entry and sends all documentation and copies of receipts with a screenshot of the journal entry to Tammy Palmieri, Financial Coordinator in NTID Office of the President at tlpnop@rit.edu. Tammy will forward all information to the RIT Accounting Office with approval to post the journal entry.

Timeline

FEAD proposals will be considered as they are submitted, preferably at the beginning of the academic year. It is strongly recommended that faculty submit proposals at least **one semester in advance** of the proposed activity to allow sufficient time for the review process to take place.

FEAD applications cannot be reviewed in the summer (or when the faculty-comprised committee is off-contract).

NOTE:

- Proposed timeline for project activities and reimbursement must be completed by **September 15** of the current fiscal year. Funds do not carry over from one fiscal year to the next. If the proposal needs to span multiple fiscal years, project activities must be clearly designated Phase I and Phase II and expenses reimbursed in the appropriate fiscal year.
- All project activities need to be documented with receipts by the applicant's department. A journal entry should be processed by the department budget staff and submitted to RIT Accounting. All documentation and copies of receipts should be sent electronically to Tammy Palmieri (tlpnop@rit.edu) before FEAD funds will be reimbursed to the department.
- Project expenditures and disbursements can be submitted to Tammy Palmieri (tlpnop@rit.edu) periodically during the current fiscal year for reimbursement. (Refer to [FEAD Funds Reimbursement Procedures](#).)
- FEAD awards cannot be used for salaries to reimburse or hire RIT/NTID employees or student employees, nor may previous project-related expenditures be reimbursed retroactively.