



1. Call for Abstracts

The UWM Research Foundation invites submissions for the 2025 Catalyst Grant Program. This initiative supports early-stage research and fosters commercialization in key areas aligned with UWM's strengths.

Submission Deadline:

5:00 PM (CST), Monday, January 27, 2024

Key Details:

- Abstracts must follow the template provided on the Catalyst Grant Program webpage (Template Link: <https://uwmrf.org/catalyst-grant-program/>).
- Submit your abstract in PDF format to catalystgrant@uwmrf.org.
- Ensure confirmation of receipt within one business day. If no confirmation is received, contact us promptly.

For Questions:

Contact: catalystgrant@uwmrf.org and Erin Puro: erin@uwmrf.org | (414) 906-4659

2. Timeline

| Date | Event/Deadline | Timeline |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 12/19/2024 | Call for abstracts released | |
| 1/27/2025 | Abstract submission deadline (5:00 PM CST) | 44 d |
| 3/14/2025 | Invitation to full proposals issued | 42 d |
| 4/1/2025 | I-Corps Customer Discovery Mini-Course (4:30-6 PM CST) | 18 d (from full proposal invite) |
| 4/3/2025 | I-Corps Customer Discovery Mini-Course (12-1:30 PM CST) | 20 d (from full proposal invite) |
| 4/21/2025 | Deadline for full proposals (5:00 PM CST) | 39 d (from full proposal invite) |
| May 2025 | Scientific & Panel review of full proposals | |
| Mid-June 2025 | Final selection and donor approval | |
| Late July 2025 | Notification of awards | |
| 8/1/2025 | Award period begins (Goal) | 141 d (from full proposal invite) |

3. Award Types

The Catalyst Grant Program offers **two** funding categories:

Full Catalyst Awards: Up to \$50,000

Gap Fund Awards: Typically, \$10,000–\$30,000

| Category | Full Catalyst Awards | Gap Fund Awards |
|------------------|--|--|
| Objective | Proof of concept | Prototype or commercial milestone |
| Review | Leading scientists, industry experts & investors | Leading scientists, industry experts & investors |
| IP Requirement | Potential or existing IP | Existing IP with strong commercialization potential |
| Focus | Scientific aims | Business case development |
| Award Amounts | Up to \$50,000 | Typically, \$10,000–\$30,000 |
| Additional Notes | Automatic acceptance to full proposal round for I-Corps participants | Emphasis on go-to-market readiness; Automatic acceptance to full proposal round for I-Corps participants |

4. Focus Areas

This program emphasizes research aligned with UWM’s strengths and regional economic potential.

Focus areas include:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Drug Discovery
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Storage/Transmission
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Agriculture
- Social Innovation
- Environmental
- Healthcare
- Advanced Automation
- Materials/Devices
- Water/Freshwater
- Aquaculture
- Transportation
- Education
- Education
- Other topics

5. Evaluation Criteria

Full Catalyst Grant Applications

| Criteria | Details |
|----------|---|
| Quality | Novelty of concept, clarity, methodology, and potential scholarly impact. |
| Return | Expected ROI, including extramural funding, IP generation, licensing. |
| Risk | Likelihood of success, alignment with expertise, potential self-sustainability. |

Gap Fund Applications

| Criteria | Details |
|-------------------|---|
| Commercial Return | Progress toward commercialization, such as prototypes or industry collaborations. |
| Path to Market | Licensing potential, startup viability, and external investment readiness. |

6. Intellectual Property Management

Projects must relate to active intellectual property managed by the UWM Research Foundation, such as:

- Invention disclosures (submitted through the [Inventor portal] (<https://uwmrf.org/inventor-portal/>) .
- Pending patent applications (provisional or utility).
- Issued patents or active copyright matters.

Example Process:

1. **Submit Disclosure:** Use the Inventor Portal before the abstract deadline.
2. **Collaborate:** Engage with UWMRF on IP management and commercialization plans.
3. **Commercialize:** Work with UWMRF to market or license the technology.