

Florida Center for Cybersecurity **2017 Capacity Building Program**

Program Description and Intent

The Florida Center for Cybersecurity (FC²) supports the efforts of the State University System (SUS) to promote innovation and productivity in cybersecurity. Through the Capacity Building Program, the Center intends to incentivize its SUS partners to take a market-based approach in developing and enhancing educational capabilities to support workforce needs, and undertake other initiatives aligned with the Center's mission. Applicants may request funding to build an academic institution's capacity for education and training in cybersecurity (new curriculum development), develop lab/ technology capabilities, or develop and execute community outreach initiatives.

Eligibility Information

Applicant or applicants must be a stakeholder of the project and be employed in one or more Florida SUS institutions. FC² encourages collaboration of multiple SUS institutions to eliminate duplicate efforts, maximize resources and promote synergy amongst our academic partners. While FC² encourages stakeholders to seek matching funds from their own institutions, it will not reject proposals that do not meet this desired goal.

Award Information

Funding

Approximately \$750,000 will be available for disbursement from FC² in 2017. Maximum budget request for each proposal must not exceed \$100,000. The Center reserves the right to negotiate final award amounts. Applications that clearly demonstrate a market-oriented approach will be given more weight during the review process.

Allowable Expenses

Award funds may be allocated for a variety of expenses, as long as those expenses support the mission of the proposal. Funds cannot be used for construction, renovation, administrative assistance, or international travel. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are also not allowed under this program. A \$10,000 maximum summer salary for stakeholder support may be requested. *(Please note: This is a total dollar amount. If there are two or more stakeholders, the maximum amount that can be allocated to combined stakeholders cannot exceed the total amount of \$10,000).*

Application Proposal Information

Proposals may be submitted for the following:

Curriculum Development

Funds may be requested to develop curriculum and/ or toolsets for critical cybersecurity topics that can be offered as shared modules to augment existing curriculum across the SUS. Examples include: programs which develop a security awareness module for cross-departmental and community use; programs which develop scenario-based exercises and simulation tools that support foundational or advanced cyber skills. Curriculum developed in partnership with other SUS institutions, community colleges, training partners, local school districts, or industry partners is strongly encouraged.

Lab/Technology Development

Funds may be requested to develop a technology lab and/or provide equipment to promote cybersecurity training and practice that may be accessible by institution departments, other SUS institutions, as well as FC² partners and affiliates (i.e. to test software and/or provide hands-on instruction). Labs may also be made available to FC² stakeholders to allow for collaborative training in immersive real-world, closed exercise environments.

Community Outreach

Funds may be requested to develop community outreach programs and/or initiatives. These may include (but are not limited to) joint activities with local industry groups, organizations, community colleges, school districts, etc. to increase cybersecurity awareness, disseminate knowledge regarding cybersecurity careers (to support development of a statewide talent pipeline), educate diverse audiences on specific cybersecurity topics, etc.

Application Proposal Information

Proposal Format

The proposal should include a cover sheet, project summary, table of contents, project narrative, biographical sketches, budget and budget justification, and any letters of commitment that have been received for support of the proposed project/program. The document should be single-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font and one-inch margins. The proposal should be submitted as one PDF document to: fc2awards@usf.edu

Application Content

The proposal should include the following elements:

- Cover Sheet
 - Title of proposed project
 - Stakeholder information (Name, Email, Phone, Address)
 - Institution Information (Name, Address)
- Project Summary (*1-page limit*)
 - Brief overview
 - Statement of the intellectual merit of the proposed project (if applicable)
 - Statement regarding the potential impact and/or outcomes of the proposed project
- Table of Contents
- Project Narrative (*10-page limit*)
 - Objectives of the proposed project and expected significance
 - Outline of the general work plan
 - An “Impacts” section (aligned with the statement in the Project Summary) that provides additional detail regarding potential impact and/or outcomes along with appropriate metrics and/or project benchmarks
- Biographical Sketches
 - Biographical information for all project stakeholders responsible for program implementation and execution. Such information may include:
 - Undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral education (if applicable)
 - Work history and current role within the SUS institution
 - Professional experience and capabilities relevant to the proposed project

- Budget & Budget Justification
 - Applicants may use a budget template of their choice but must clearly articulate how the requested funds will be utilized (*Note: If more than one SUS institution is collaborating on the proposed project, the budget must clearly specify the funding allocation that is requested for each institution.*)
 - Applicants are urged to be as detailed as possible when developing the budget.
 - Applicants are encouraged to provide additional explanation and information to justify the funding request and specific line items within the budget.
 - If appropriate to the project for which funds are requested, the applicant may wish to specify timing as to when funds would be expended based upon the project workplan.
 - Submitted budget request amounts should be properly allocated and well-justified to meet project objectives.
- Letters of Commitment
 - If other financial or in-kind support for the project has been confirmed, applicants should submit letters of commitment from the supporter that meet the following criteria:
 - Letter must be written and signed by an authorized individual
 - Letter must specify the value of the financial and/or in-kind support (*Note: This value must match the value that is specified in the budget*)

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a review panel consisting of representatives from academia, industry, and government. The FC² director will make the final selection based on the rankings of the proposals and attention will be given to proposals that include matching funds allocated by host institutions. The following criteria will be used:

- Feasibility of the project and alignment with FC² strategic priorities
- Qualifications of project personnel to successfully implement and execute the project
- Budget appropriately allocated and well-justified to meet project objectives
- Impact and/or projected outcomes
- Potential for generating external follow-up funding

Timeline

RFP Issued	January 19, 2017
Submission Deadline	March 2, 2017
Award Announcement	March 30, 2017

Reporting

Project and financial reports are due two (2) months after the end date of the project. The final report should include the following information:

1. Title of project
2. Name(s) of individual(s) responsible for program execution

3. Brief project summary
4. Outcomes and/or impact (Performance against established metrics)
5. Final financial report

Additional Comments

Any proposed financial or programmatic changes that differ from the approved proposal must be authorized by FC² before such changes can be implemented.

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, (disclosure of which may harm the applicant), should be included in proposals only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. Such information must be clearly marked in the proposal and appropriately labeled with a legend such as: "The following is (proprietary or confidential) information that (name of proposing organization) requests not be released to persons outside FC² except for those individuals who serve on the review panel responsible for evaluating proposal submissions."

Please note that if your project is selected for funding, each recipient must provide a Subrecipient & Information Compliance Certification Form (omitting Section A) <http://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/sr/documents/sub-info-compliance-cert-form.pdf>

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to: fc2awards@usf.edu