2025-2026 Strategic Investment

for

Innovation in Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs is seeking innovative proposals to support programs that serve the region, invest in our people and processes, and invest in sustaining growth for the future. Our goal for these strategic investments is to support faculty and staff driving innovation and measurable improvements in service to our students, community, and region. We invite proposals that offer the most creative, effective, and mission-aligned solutions that support our institutional priorities as defined by the Chico State Playbook, the new CSU Student Success Framework, and the CSU Forward Strategic Plan.

Proposals should center student success and fall within the following broad categories:

1. Programs that serve the region
2. Investing in our people and improving our processes
3. Future focused growth and innovation

Proposals should focus on projects that are pilot-ready or can be launched during the spring or summer 2026.

Funding and budget details

- **Funding availability:** Collectively we have set aside $100,000 of total funding that is available for this initiative. The suggested budget range is between $5,000 and $30,000 for single awards.
- **Use of funds:** Funds may be used for faculty release time, staff stipends, student assistants, participant incentives, and direct programmatic expenses. Limited travel and hospitality may be approved as directly connected to proposal outcomes. Requests should not include funding for general operations, basic research, or capital expenditures.

Proposal requirements and submission guidelines

Proposals should be limited to two pages and include the following:

- **Executive summary: A** concise overview of the proposed project.
- **Project description: A** detailed narrative addressing the goals and planned activities.
- **Project team: Information** on the key personnel involved and their relevant experience.

- **Measures of success: Explain** how you will assess project outcomes and how they align with the priorities outlined above.
- **Budget: Provide** a detailed budget breakdown and justification of the requested funds.

Submission Process

Proposals are due to the Provost's Office no later than midnight November 19, 2025. Upload proposals to the 2025-26 Strategic Investment Proposals folder. Awardees will be notified no later than December 12, 2025, and funds must be expended by July 1, 2026, unless summer funding is requested.

Evaluation and selection criteria

- **Strategic alignment (30%):** How well the project aligns with the strategic goals outlined above.
- **Innovation and creativity (25%):** The originality and creativity of the proposed solution.
- **Feasibility and scalability (20%):** The project's plan, timeline, budget, and potential for broader institutional impact.
- **Measurable outcomes (15%):** The strength of the evaluation plan and proposed metrics for success.
- **Project team qualifications (10%):** The experience and expertise of the personnel involved.

Project Report

Project Reports must be submitted to the Provost's Office no later than 60 days after project completion, including outcomes assessment and detailed budget accounting.