Seed Award Review Criteria

Each E-CORE: RAIS-PR seed award proposal will be reviewed by 3 faculty members from the RAIS-PR team. The score will be averaged and a panel summary will be written. Each of the review criteria below will be given a rating of 1 to 5. 1 (poor), 2 (fair), 3(good), 4(very good), or 5(excellent).

The review will be made on the fronts of both intellectual merit and broader impacts. The specific review questions are listed below:

A. Intellectual Merit

1. To what extent does the proposed project address an important and well-defined research problem involving artificial intelligence and/or AI-enabled STEM technologies?
2. To what extent is the proposed research innovative and likely to advance knowledge beyond existing approaches?
3. Does the project make a substantive contribution to AI research, AI-enabled science or engineering, or the development and application of emerging AI technologies?
4. Are the research objectives, methodology, technical approach, and evaluation methods clearly described, scientifically sound, and appropriate for accomplishing the proposed work?
5. Can the proposed research reasonably be accomplished within the seed award period and with the resources requested?
6. Does the project effectively integrate AI with one or more STEM disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary research engaging industry?
7. To what extent will the project strengthen the research capabilities, expertise of the participating institution?
8. Is the seed project likely to generate preliminary results, publications, datasets, software, prototypes, or other outcomes that can support a larger externally funded research program?
9. Does the project provide a credible pathway toward future competitive proposals to NSF or other federal funding agencies?

B. Broader Impacts

1. Does the project promote AI readiness or AI literacy in the proposed institution?

2. To what extent will the project expand opportunities for students, faculty, or researchers from institutions and communities that have historically had limited participation in AI research?

3. Does the proposed work have the potential to develop sustainable collaborations with other universities, national laboratories, government agencies, industry, or other external partners?

4. Does the proposed research address scientific, technological, economic, environmental, infrastructure, health, energy, or other societal challenges relevant to Puerto Rico?

5. Are the research capabilities, collaborations, infrastructure, datasets, computational resources, or expertise developed through the project likely to continue beyond the seed funding period?

6. Does the proposal provide an appropriate plan for disseminating research results, sharing knowledge, and communicating outcomes to relevant scientific, educational, industrial, or community stakeholders?

C. RAIS-PR Strategic Criteria

1. Will the proposed project lead to competitive proposals for funding from federal agencies?

2. Will the proposed project lead to workforce development in PR and entrepreneurial startups for student participants?

3. Will the proposed research contribute to the sustainability of the research infrastructure and research ecosystem of RAIS-PR?

4. Does the project have the potential to position RAIS-PR investigators for future partnerships with established AI research institutions, NSF-funded centers, national laboratories, or industry?

5. To what extent could the project increase the visibility and participation of Puerto Rico researchers and institutions within the broader U.S. AI research ecosystem?

D. Overall Assessment

1. How strongly does the proposed project contribute to the overall mission of RAIS-PR Center?
2. Considering the proposal as a whole, what is your overall recommendation for RAIS-PR seed funding?