**RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT (R&E)**

**USC/Arnold School Basic “Boilerplate” Information for Sponsored Award Proposals**

*The following includes ‘boilerplate’ (basic) information about the University of South Carolina (USC) and the College of Information and Communication (CIC):*

* *Use only what you need*. *Include only the information that is pertinent to your proposal* (not the whole thing). Note that there is some information overlap between sections.
* Be sure to add specific department, lab, equipment, and collaboration information as needed for your proposal and edit out what is not relevant to it.
* Other USC units and external institutions/organizations should be able to supply you with their R&E information upon request.
* Overview and contact information about additional CIC centers and programs is at: https://sc.edu/study/colleges\_schools/cic/index.php

*Updated Summer 2024*

**The University of South Carolina (USC)**

**The University of South Carolina (USC)** was established in 1801 and is a full-service, state- assisted research university that includes the 358-acre Columbia campus and seven regional campuses, with a total full-time student body population of more than 35,000 in Columbia and 50,000 overall. Located in the capital city of Columbia in the geographic center of the state, USC's main campus is part of a thriving metropolitan area of more than 800,000 inhabitants. USC offers a broad spectrum of educational opportunities with 14 colleges and schools that encompass 324 undergraduate and graduate degree-granting programs. USC confers 25% of all bachelors, graduate, and professional degrees awarded at institutions of higher education in South Carolina.

**USC Research Capacity.** In fiscal year 2024, USC was awarded over $300 million in extramural sponsored award funding, 72% percent of which was for research. USC is listed in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a Very High Research Activity University.

The University provides researchers with a full range of grant and contract-related services through its Sponsored Awards Management and Grants and Funds Management offices. USC’s Office of Research Compliance oversees the institutional review processes for human and animal subjects as well as disclosure and management of financial conflicts of interest and assists with scientific misconduct regulation and export controls.

**The SC SmartState Centers of Economic Excellence** **program** was established by the state's General Assembly in 2002 with $180 million of non-tax revenue funds generated from the South Carolina Education Lottery. These funds, along with legislatively mandated dollar-for-dollar matching non-state funds, provide support for hiring world-class researchers who serve as the endowed chairs of the SmartState Centers. The 51 Centers are grouped into six industry- focused Smart Clusters to facilitate engagement with business, students, potential faculty, and the public. Each Center includes one or more endowed chair, research infrastructure, technical staff, and sustainable funding sources. USC is home to 27 SmartState Centers, including 18 that are headquartered at USC's Columbia campus and eight within which USC actively collaborates working with other SC research institutions.

**USC Libraries.** Thomas Cooper, the University’s main library, is centrally located on the Columbia campus, and the School of Medicine library is a 15-minute drive from central campus. Both libraries maintain an extensive collection of health-related resources, including books,

journals, and indices. Access to online databases and full-text journals is available through the Thomas Cooper Library Web page.

**USC’s Division of Information Technology (DoIT)**, under the direction of the Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, oversees centralized and distributed computing and telecommunications services for academic, research, and administrative use to meet the needs of USC faculty, staff, and students. DoIT provides the USC community with computing, voice, and data communications, networking, data security, video transport, information technology training, Web services, customer support, desktop and server support, installation and maintenance of IT infrastructure, policies and procedures assistance, PC labs, software licensing and distribution, IT planning, applications development and support, and operational systems. The Columbia campus is covered by wireless service. USC has a licensing agreement with Microsoft that includes 5TB of secure cloud storage space for every faculty and staff member on OneDrive. Microsoft has signed legal agreements with the University that hold them liable for the security and protection of data stored on OneDrive. OneDrive provides USC researchers with the capability to share data and results with external partners by emailing them a link to securely download the data.

**The College of Information and Communications**

**The College of Information and Communications (CIC)** The college was created in 2002, allying the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the School of Information Science and named the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies.  In 2015, the name was changed to College of Information and Communications to better distinguish it as the umbrella for the schools and reflect the evolving information/communications landscape. Combining the fields of communications and information sciences, CIC researches and teaches the best contemporary methods to gather information, interpret data, derive understanding, articulate meaning, and create and share content so that graduates can expertly convey ideas that both inform and empower a more discerning citizenry. CIC is the largest it has ever been with over 100 faculty and full-time staff, and more than 2,500 students.

**CIC Academic Departments.** CIC is the home of 2 academic departments: The School of Information Science and The School of Journalism and Mass Communications. These departments are dedicated to improving society through the transformation of data into information, translating this information into knowledge, and communicating of these events to society effectively.

**CIC Degree Programs.** CIC offers eight undergraduate majors, five masters degrees, and two doctoral programs through our two nationally recognized and ranked schools that include Journalism and Mass Communications and Information Science. **Undergraduate degrees** are offered in the following disciplines: Advertising, Mass Communications, Visual Communications, Broadcast Journalism, Information Science, Journalism, Public Relations, and Sports Media. Minors are offered in: Advertising and Public Relations, Informatics, Mass Communications, Social Media and Mass Communications, and Sports Media, which is also offered as a concentration. **Master level graduate degrees** are offered in the following disciples: Arts, Data and Communications, Information Security and Cyber Leadership, Library and Information Science, and Mass Communications. Accelerated master degrees are offered as well. **Graduate certificates** are offered in Data and Communication; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Health Communication; Information Security and Cyber Leadership; Specialized Study in Information Science; and a specialization in Library and Information Science. **Doctorate degrees** are offered in Library and Information Science in Mass Communication.

**CIC Computing Resources.**

**CIC Computing Security and Capacity.**

{See the USC Office of Information Technology (DoIT) section above for additional information about USC-level computing security and capacity}

**CIC Research Capacity.** In fiscal year 2024, CIC principal investigators submitted $X million in total proposal requests. They were awarded more than $X million in extramural funding, including $X million in research awards from both federal and non- federal sources. CIC investigators were awarded $X million from the National Institutes of Health and approximately $X million from other Health and Human Services agencies. In addition, CIC faculty members published more than 762 articles in peer-reviewed research journals during the 2023 calendar year.

**Federal Funding to USC and CIC.** The University of South Carolina received $180 million in federal grant and contract awards, or 74% of its total sponsored award funding from all extramural sources in fiscal year 2024. USC’s CIC received $X million in federal awards, X% of its total sponsored award funding. NIH provides X% of the School’s federal grant and contract funding, followed by funding from other federal agencies, including AHRQ, CDC, HRSA, SAMHSA, HHS-Other, DOD, EPA, IMLS, NASA, NOAA, NSF,

USDA, USDE, and the VA.

**CIC Faculty Offices.** Each faculty member has a private office with a printer and personal computer with Microsoft Office and additional software relevant to his or her teaching and research, Internet access, telephone, and general office support. Faculty members are furnished with additional office and laboratory space as needed for project support.

**CIC Research Initiatives.** CIC advances the excellence of research scholarship and creative activity by encouraging new research from individual faculty as well as in more formal academic opportunities. These include: CIC Diversity and Inclusion Research Symposium, Laboratory for Leadership in Equity and Diversity (LLEAD), and the Media and Civil Rights History Symposium.

**CIC Research Facilities.** CIC offers top-notch teaching and research laboratories. **The Biometrics and User Experience Lab (BaUX)** is a multi-purpose research facility with multi-disciplinary-foci, including advertising and marketing communication, health communication, human-technology interaction, social media, and journalism. The BaUX Lab has a unique set of cutting-edge technologies to track facial expressions, eye movement, sweat gland stimulation and neuroelectrical activity. Current faculty and student research projects focus on human-computer interaction, message persuasion, social media communication, citizen-compared-to-staff photojournalism, health communication, etc. Undergraduate and graduate courses may be taught in the lab, and students may also access it by assisting with faculty research projects, interning in the lab, and running independent and supervised research projects. The **Social Media Laboratory** stives to better understand the increasingly important role of social media in society. The facility uses advanced artificial intelligence software that processes billions of indexed resources across all forms of structured and unstructured data to generate, visualize and interpret data. CIC’s **Suite 316** is a graduate seminar room in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications can be used to conduct focus groups. It has technology to allow for video recording and remote observation. This room greatly enhances student collaboration and presentation experience.

**CIC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiatives.** The CIC has unveiled several groundbreaking initiatives in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) aimed at advancing individuals and organizations across the state and beyond. These include: The AI Ethics Counsel for Strategic Communications, Statewide AI Training Program, USC Hackathon, Internal Research Seed Grants for AI based projects, AGI Lab, AI newsletter, and external partnerships IBM SkillsBuild and Chernoff Newman. CIC is also conducting a new survey about AI use related as it is related to communication. This project was piloted in Summer 2024. This survey examines the influence of AI tools on the future of journalism, upcoming electoral campaigns, and younger generations' adoption of these technologies. The full results will be made publicly available, and the University of South Carolina will repeat this survey biannually to provide an index on AI’s evolving impact.

**CIC Programs.** CIC offers a variety of unique educational opportunities through access and engagement programs. These programs are open to members of the college and the public: 4+1 pathway partnership with Claflin University, Brown Bag Luncheons, CIC Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Studies Open House, Dean’s Lunch and Lead, Digital Media Experience, Linda Lucas Walling Collection, MLK Day Breakfast of Champions, Media Innovation Academy, and Women’s Leadership Week.