



**Quality of Life  
(QOL)  
FY2027 Competition**

**Request for Proposals**

**Electronic Submissions Due in InfoReady:  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 5:00 p.m.**

FY 2027 Application Submission:

**<https://nova.infoready4.com>**

Click on “Quality of Life Grant” under Open Funding Opportunities to apply  
For more information, please visit <https://www.nova.edu/quality-of-life/index.html>

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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To meet the needs of its many constituencies, the University has developed a Mission Statement that addresses the contemporary needs of students, faculty and staff, and community members throughout South Florida, other areas in Florida, and other states and international locations served through distance education:

*The mission of Nova Southeastern University - a selective, doctoral research university - is to deliver innovative academic programs in a dynamic, lifelong learning and research environment fostering integrity, academic excellence, leadership, and community service through engaged students, faculty, and staff.*

In response to our communities' needs, Nova Southeastern University partnered with several community agencies to form the Quality of Life Council. The council's members included many significant figures from our local community such as: Children's Services Council, Henderson Mental Health Center, Broward Health, Broward Sheriff's Office, Bellsouth Business, South Florida Region Planning Council, along with many Directors, Associates and Faculty from NSU's Colleges and Schools.

The resulting mission that was established for the Quality of Life (QOL) initiative is a simple one: take the most serious problems affecting the community and bring the best minds of NSU's faculty, students, and community providers to bear to implement projects that improve the quality of life in our local communities. Through efforts of the university president and its Trustees, as well as community organizations, the Quality of Life grant program was created to support applied research projects to help achieve this mission.

In the history of the QOL program, the university has invested \$1.2 million in support of faculty research and scholarship. Recently funded studies include:

- Using Art Interventions to Enhance Clinical Mental Health Training with Community Supervisors
- Career Counseling with Foster Youth Transitioning to Adulthood Using Psychoeducation, Simulation-Based Group Counseling
- A Feasibility and Efficacy Study of a Breathwork and Meditation Intervention (SKY Breath) on the Psycho-Physiological Well-Being of Parkinson's Disease Patients and Their Caregivers
- Parent Involvement and Academic Performance Among Student Athletes in High School
- An Experimental Examination of a Racecar-Simulation Psychoeducational Intervention and the Effects on Health and Performance-Based Outcomes of Veterans Diagnosed with PTSD

Such projects not only improve societal knowledge, but also engage the NSU community in research and scholarship, enhance students' academic experiences, and foster faculty members' pursuits of externally funded research.

For more information about QOL, please refer to <https://www.nova.edu/qol> and the contact information provided on page 12 of these guidelines.

## 2 IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

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The FY2026 Quality of Life (QOL) implementation timeline is as follows:

- **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2026:** Electronic proposals due on InfoReady by 5:00 p.m.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026: Screening completed for routing to reviewers
- April 10<sup>th</sup> 2026: Ratings completed
- Early May, 2026: Final award selections made by the President
- Late May, 2026: Notification letters sent to the Principal Investigators
- July 1, 2026: Earliest date FY2027 awards may begin

## 3 PROGRAM PURPOSE

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The QOL program is designed to promote scholarly research that will address community needs and have a significant impact on improving the quality of life in areas where NSU has a campus.

Special priority will be given to activities that include an interdisciplinary, collaborative component while achieving the above stated objectives. These funds are awarded in categories of Autism, Children & Families, Criminal Justice, Adult General, Elderly Services, and Foster Care, as well as other areas. Within these categories are several top priority issues indicated by our community partners and/or obtained via countywide reports, which are currently significantly impacting community residents. These include:

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Obesity                            | • Child Abuse Prevention             |
| • Maternal Health & Infant Mortality | • Transition Skills/Programing       |
| • Affordable Housing                 | • Delinquency Prevention & Diversion |
| • Veterans Reintegration             | • Family Strengthening               |
| • Elderly Services                   | • Unemployment                       |
| • School Class Size                  | • Early Literacy                     |
| • Access to Health & Human Services  | • Mental Health                      |
| • Autism                             |                                      |

## 4 ELIGIBILITY

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Individuals who are eligible to apply for external awards under the [NSU Principal Investigator Eligibility Policy](#) can apply for QOL awards. This includes full-time faculty members, full-time research scientists, associate research scientists, full-time administrators with faculty rank, and

professional staff (when research is part of their official duties). *Individuals requiring an exception to apply for external funds under the Principal Investigator Eligibility policy **are not eligible** to apply to the QOL program.*

**All individuals on QOL projects must have non-sponsored effort available.** Applicants who are 100% funded by sponsored awards must obtain certification from their Dean that effort will be adjusted, in accordance with any sponsor requirements, prior to any QOL award being made so that sufficient non-sponsored time is available to work on the project.

**Eligible applicants are only allowed to submit one QOL application per grant cycle as lead Principal Investigator (PI),** but an individual may participate as a collaborator on multiple applications.

**Past/current QOL recipients:** Applicants who have received a QOL in past competitions are eligible to apply, so long as their Dean is aware of their proposal and workload. Past recipients with questions about the status of their reports should contact [gol@nova.edu](mailto:gol@nova.edu).

**PRG and Quality of Life:** Applicants should **not** submit the same project application for funding to **both** the Presidents Research Grant (PRG, formerly PFRDG) and the Quality of Life Grant, but should select the program that best fits the nature of their research. Information about the PRG application and review procedures can be accessed at <https://www.nova.edu/prg>.

## 5 ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS UNDER QOL

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The following items are examples of eligible expenditures for QOL awards:

- Equipment (owned by the university). Applicants are permitted to submit a brief quote (no more than one page) within their appendices to further justify their budget costs.
- Research supplies and instruments, including test materials or other specialized materials. • Students hired through the Office of Student Employment.<sup>1</sup>
- Other temporary employee assistance.
- Incentive payments to human subjects involved in the research. This includes direct costs for items such as stipends, registration fees, travel allowances and/or other incentives (i.e. gift cards) paid to human subjects involved in the research project. The amount of incentive payments should be well-justified based on the research.
- Special promotional activities (i.e., advertising for special clients or student's participation, special seminars or conferences to promote activities, etc.).
- Focused travels for specific consultations/collaborations (see below for restrictions).
- Travel for formal presentation of scholarly work in professional venues (see below for restrictions).

*Note: International travel **must** be included within the original budget. Re-budget requests to include international travel at post-award will not be permitted.*

- Travel to collect data.

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<sup>1</sup> Student employees are permitted to work up to 20 hours a week when classes are in session and up to 37.5 hours a week when classes are not in session. The PI will determine the salary range which must be at least minimum wage. The PI will work with their College and the Office of Student Employment after a PRG award account is set up to create any student employment position for the award.

<sup>2</sup> Consultants are members of a particular profession or who possess a special skill who are not NSU employees. Costs of consultants are allowable when reasonable in relation to the services rendered. Payment for consultants should be comparable to the normal or customary fees charged for comparable services. Anticipated consultant services must be justified and information must be furnished on each individual's expertise, primary affiliation, daily compensation rate, and the number of days of expected service. Consultants' travel costs, including subsistence, may be included. If the applicant's project is awarded, the consultant will be asked to provide his/her insurance information and execute an independent consulting agreement.

The following activities **will not be** supported through QOL:

- Faculty development travel (i.e., attendance at professional meetings when not presenting).
- Faculty release time or supplemental pay.
- Salaries of regular full-time/part-time employees, excluding temporary employee assistance.
- Cash advances for any non-travel related expenses.
- Payments to collaborating institutions or consultants, which exceed 30% of the total project costs (i.e., if a project budget is \$15,000 no more than \$4,500 may be requested for a subrecipient/consultant). This does not include payments to vendors for services.
- Conference travel costs for the purposes of dissemination of research results that exceed \$3,500. There is no limit for travel associated with field activities necessary for the research.

For questions on budget item eligibility, please contact the QOL Grants Administrator at [qol@nova.edu](mailto:qol@nova.edu).

## 6 APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

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Proposals must be submitted via InfoReady. To start a new application, click on the "Quality of Life Grant" FY2027 funding opportunity from the InfoReady homepage at <https://nova.infoready4.com>. Instructions for using InfoReady can be found in Addendum I of this RFP and on <https://nova.edu/qol>.

### 6.1 PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND CONTENT

Applications must be submitted successfully in InfoReady no later than **January 20th, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST.** The completed application package must include:

- Completion of all required fields (refer to section 8.1 and Addendum I) ○ Please note that the application form uses branching logic - some fields will become required depending on your other answers within the application
- Required and Optional Attachments (uploaded) (refer to Section 7.2 and 7.3 for further instructions)

*You will not be able to submit your application until all required fields have been completed. You will not be able to submit your application after 5:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2026.*

## 6.2 COMMUNITY PARTNER REQUIREMENT AND INTRA-UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIONS

According to NSF's Grant Proposal Guide: "A collaborative proposal is one in which investigators from two or more [academic units or] organizations wish to collaborate on a unified research project." True collaboration involves multiple individuals working towards a common goal that advances the mission of all participating units and/or organizations. A project identified by the applicant as a collaborative project must demonstrate true collaboration through the description of the collaborators' roles in the narrative, and for Community Partners, by providing a Letter of Commitment (see below).

**Community Partners (REQUIRED):** At least one community partner is required for all QOL applications. Community partners may be located in areas where NSU campuses are located.

Provide a separate Letter of Commitment for each collaborator on official letterhead. The Letter of Commitment should address:

1. What is the main purpose of the collaboration?
2. What is the time period of the collaboration?
3. What are the responsibilities of the collaborator?

\* All Letters of Commitment should be readable and current. *A Letter of Commitment must be uploaded as a PDF file under "Collaborator Information" in the Personnel section, or the applicant will receive an error message preventing submission (see section 7.3 below).*

**Internal Collaboration (Optional):** Projects that involve faculty investigators from more than one college/unit are encouraged **and will receive an additional 5 points**. It will be the decision of the review panel to determine if the proposal meets the criteria for internal collaboration and how many points will be awarded (whether or not an academic unit collaborates with one or more academic units, the proposal can only receive a maximum of *up to 5* extra points for collaboration). **Internal collaborations are documented by signature of the participating researcher's Dean on the Dean's Commitment Form (see Section 8.3, Attachments for information), which is required for additional points to be given.**

**Note:** Each Letter of Commitment and Dean's Commitment Form must be uploaded as a PDF file to an appropriate area in the Personnel section of the Info Ready Proposal Form, for points to be given (see Section 7.3 below).

## 6.3 PROJECTS INVOLVING STUDENTS

Student involvement means that one or more students will directly benefit from the project and be involved at the author-level (e.g. by participating in the production of a paper, poster or presentation from the project's results). A project identified as involving students must include a description of the students' roles on the project within the narrative. QOL projects that involve students at the author-level will receive *up to* an additional 5 points.

While projects involving students are strongly encouraged, **the faculty member's research should be the primary focus. To this end, support for a student's thesis or dissertation is only permissible if the QOL project is demonstrably advancing the PI's own research and capacity to pursue external funding, which should be evident in the proposal.**

**Note:** Whether or not an investigator involves one or more students in the project, the proposal can only receive *up to* a maximum of 5 extra points for student involvement. **It will be the decision of the reviewers to determine if the proposal meets the criteria for student involvement and how many points will be awarded.**

## 7 APPLICATION ORGANIZATION AND PROPOSAL CONTENT

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This year, applications will be completed in *InfoReady* (<https://nova.infoready4.com>), by accessing the Quality of Life Research Grant open funding opportunity located at the bottom of the homepage. **In order to submit successfully in InfoReady, applicants must complete all applicable required fields and attachment uploads and submit the application prior to 5PM Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

### 7.1 IMPORTANT TIPS FOR USING INFOREADY AND SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

- Access InfoReady as described in Addendum I (NSU users can sign in through SSO).
- You can move between sections of the application at any time by clicking the section name on the left.
- Save your application draft often (click “Save as Draft” button on bottom left) to ensure that information entered is not lost.
- The InfoReady QOL application uses branching logic to identify required fields. Please note that subsequent required fields may appear depending on your previous answers within the application.
- Applicants must hit the “Preview” button in the bottom right hand corner of the last section of the application before the “Submit” button will be available. **Once you click “Submit,” you cannot make proposal edits.**
- Incomplete/blank required fields will be highlighted in red upon attempting to submit the application. Submission will not be possible until all required fields are complete.
- Applications (with attachments) may be downloaded as a PDF by clicking the PDF button on the top right from within the application.
- **Don't wait until the last minute! Please allow sufficient time to resolve any issues and submit your proposal on InfoReady before the 5:00 p.m. deadline.**

### 7.2 INFOREADY QOL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The sections below provide an overview of each section of the QOL application in InfoReady. Forms to be uploaded can be found under “Application Instructions” on the left hand menu of the InfoReady application. Instructions to Access/Use InfoReady is also included as Addendum I to this RFP.



This year, applications will be completed in *InfoReady*, by accessing Quality of Life open funding opportunity located at the bottom of the homepage (<https://nova.infoready4.com>). Applicants must complete all applicable required fields and attachment uploads and hit “Submit” prior to 5pm on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. ***After the deadline, InfoReady will automatically close the submission window and disable the “Submit” function. Applications that have been initiated but not submitted by 5pm will not move forward in the review process.***

### 7.2.1 Title & General Information

Enter the project title, PI’s first and last name. Specify if the research is qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods; if the research is connected to any NSU institutes; if the research will require the use of any NSU core facilities or NSU Health resources; the location(s) of the research activity; the type of research; and if the application is a resubmission from the FY26 competition cycle (optional, see below).

***Resubmissions (NEW): This year, applicants who were unfunded in the previous (FY26) cycle may choose to classify that proposal as a resubmission in this section (optional).*** If the application is indicated as a resubmission, the following information will be required:

- An Introduction ***(limited to 3,000 characters)*** that clearly articulates the additions, deletions and/or changes from the prior year’s submission.
- The Project Title for your FY27 resubmission must be the same as the prior year’s title.
- Resubmissions are subject to the same scoring criteria as new proposals and does not guarantee funding in the current competition.

### 7.2.2 Personnel

***Form templates:*** The Dean’s Commitment form template and optional Biographical Sketch template may be downloaded from this area of the application.

***NSU Faculty: (The first entry in this section must be the Principal Investigator):*** Enter the individual’s name, terminal degree, College/Unit, Department, position title, project role (select), and NSU email. All fields are required. *Please verify accuracy, as information will be used for award/recognition purposes, if the project is funded.* You must also upload a Dean’s Commitment Form and a Biographical Sketch where indicated (see section 6.2 and 7.3 below for instructions on completing these documents). ***All NSU Faculty involved in the project need to be included in the Personnel section with the appropriate documentation (Biographical Sketch and Dean’s Commitment Form).***

Other named NSU personnel on the project in addition to the PI may be added by clicking “Add new” at the bottom of the section and following the same instructions as above for each faculty. Note that the same Dean’s Commitment Form may be uploaded multiple times for faculty from the same academic unit.

*NSU Students (Competitive Points):* Specify if NSU students will be involved in the project by choosing “Yes” or “No”. Provide the number of students. If students have been identified at the time of application, provide the name, degree level being pursued, College, and NSU email address. Additional students can be added to the form by selecting “Add new” at the bottom of the section. *Please verify accuracy, as information will be used for award/recognition purposes, if the project is funded.* For students who have not yet been identified, follow the prompts to include how you will select the student(s) and their current academic stage. Describe the roles of collaborating NSU students in the “Roles” section of the Proposal Narrative (see 7.2.5).

### 7.2.3 Community Partner(s)

Provide the External Collaborator’s title, name, organizational affiliation, and email address. A short explanation of the role of the external collaborators should also be included. A separate Letter of Commitment must be uploaded for each external collaborator by attaching it through the file upload field within this section of the online application. Additional external collaborators can be added to the form by selecting “Add new” at the bottom of the section (refer to section 6.2 and 7.2.5).

### 7.2.4 Compliance

Answer the compliance questions to communicate the nature of your research and indicate what approvals your project will need prior to the release of funding if you are awarded. Applicants who receive QOL awards are to follow the applicable policies and procedures for research compliance including Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Radiation Safety, or Export Control if applicable. The questions included in this section mirror those found with Cayuse, NSU’s proposal and award management system. Please ensure that accurate information is provided.

### 7.2.5 Proposal Narrative

All narrative responses should be written using a formal scientific style that is understandable to reviewers **who are not specialists** in your area of research. All important technical abbreviations, equations, formulae, jargon, software programs, and highly specialized terminologies should be explained in lay terms.

Please take note of and adhere to specified character limits for each proposal narrative section (the character count is visible at the bottom right of the rich text editor fields). *InfoReady will not allow text exceeding the character limits, including text pasted from another application such as Word. Also, rich text formatting is not enabled in text responses.*

- **Abstract** (*limited to 2,500 characters with spaces*): Provide an abstract or structured summary of the proposed work, with emphasis on need/background, rationale, methodological design and material/data analysis, and significance of the study.
- **Background & Significance** (*limited to 12,000 characters with spaces*): Describe and provide evidence supporting the need for the project/how the study addresses an important local problem and importance for the proposed work.

- **Objectives** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: State the objectives/aims and summarize the expected outcomes. Describe what problems or knowledge gaps will be solved by the completed project.
- **Project Description** *(limited to 12,000 characters with spaces)*: Describe the study design, study participants (and participant selection if appropriate), the measurement instruments (a brief description of all assessment instruments is required; if qualitative methods are used, please include samples of interviews and/or questions to be asked; if needed, please include copies of the instruments as a separate Attachment (see 7.3 below)), and the procedures to be followed. Describe the various steps the study will take to accomplish the proposed objectives; if an intervention is used, e.g., training, describe the intervention in as much detail as possible.
- **Roles** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: Describe the role of the principal investigator and collaborators in completing the project. A detailed description of the community partner's role and the collaborative relationship must be provided. Describe student involvement in the project, as applicable. Applicants who include NSU student(s) in author-level participation in their research project will receive five additional points (refer to sections 6.2 & 6.3). **NSU Faculty named in the project also need to be added in the Personnel section with the appropriate documentation uploaded (Biographical Sketch and Dean's Commitment Form).**
- **Feasibility Statement** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: Provide an implementation plan and timeline of activities (account for time required for IRB review), including anticipated completion date. *Applicants may include a timeline graphic (table/chart) as an optional attachment that can be uploaded to this section.*
- **Performance Site** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: Describe the NSU and community partner facilities/locations where the research will be conducted.
- **Potential Challenges** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)* Describe anticipated challenges and resolutions.
- **Data Analysis** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: Describe how data will be analyzed and interpreted; if the project addresses the evaluation of an existing program, this section should also address expected outcomes along with assessment strategies of these outcomes.
- **Line-Item Budget** Provide a line-item budget by downloading and completing the template (refer to examples of eligible and ineligible costs described in section 5). Make sure the line item budget is consistent with the budget narrative section below. Requests may not exceed \$15,000. Upload the completed form to the Line-Item Budget Upload field.
- **Budget Narrative & Justification** *(limited to 4,000 characters with spaces)*: Explain requested costs in sufficient detail to demonstrate they are reasonable and necessary to the project's objectives/activities. Research-related and conference-related travel should be relevant and necessary to the work or dissemination of project results. Note: **International travel must be justified in the application (funds may not be rebudgeted for this purpose after award).** Failure to adequately justify any expense in relation to the objectives of the project could negatively impact the proposal score. The budget narrative should align to the "Line Item Budget" section of the application. Purchases made with QOL funds are subject to NSU policies and procedures and all

materials purchased with grant funds (i.e., office supplies, computer equipment, etc.) are considered property of NSU.

- **Dissemination** (*limited to 2,000 characters with spaces*): Describe how findings of work will be disseminated, to include the mechanism(s) that will be used to disseminate findings (i.e. publications, etc.) and how the work be externally evaluated for the purpose of dissemination (i.e., peer review board, panel experts, awards committee, etc.).
- **Community Impact** (*limited to 4,000 characters with spaces*): Describe the expected impact on the community where the NSU campus is located.
- **External Funding** (*limited to 2,000 characters with spaces*): Discuss the potential of your project to generate external funds to sustain activities or to develop new projects.
- **References Cited** (*required, no character limit*): This section must include bibliographic citations only and must not be used to provide additional narrative. *You can upload a .pdf of your references cited page, or you may choose to add your references as text into the rich text editor box.*

### 7.3 ATTACHMENTS

*Files should be uploaded as PDF files within the InfoReady QOL application where indicated (see Addendum I for further information). The entire application package, when completed, MAY NOT EXCEED 10MB.*

- **Dean's Commitment Form(s) (required)**: A completed Dean's Commitment Form should be uploaded as a separate attachment for each NSU faculty confirming approval of the PI and other investigators' effort. **The same form may be uploaded when faculty members are from the same academic unit**, provided all names are listed on the form; a separate form signed by the respective Dean is required for each collaborating academic unit, if applicable. *Template is available in InfoReady. Save attachment(s) as: Dean's Commitment Form\_College name.*
- **References Cited (required)**: See Section 7.2.5 above for instructions. *If uploading as an attachment, save attachment as: References Cited and upload under the References section.*
- **Biographical Sketches (required)**: In NSU Faculty section, upload separately for all named personnel not to exceed 5 pages each. Biographical Sketches that exceed 5 pages will be abbreviated to five pages prior to review. *Optional template is available in InfoReady.*
- **Timeline Table Attachment (optional)**: You have the option to upload a timeline table to supplement your feasibility statement. *Save attachment as: Timeline\_table, and upload under the Feasibility section of the online application.*
- **Letters of Collaboration (required for Community Partner(s))**: Upload under the External Collaborators subheading in the Personnel section of the application for each external collaborator on official letterhead. *Save attachment as: Letter of Collaboration\_partner name.*
- **Other Attachments (optional)** – You may upload a file to show images, graphics and figures (not additional text) that essential to understanding. Images/graphics/figures should be clearly labeled

and referenced within the text responses. Upload to the Other Attachments section of the application. *Save Attachment as: Other\_description.*

## 8 PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

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Proposals are screened and a 24 hour cure period may be given to address substantive issues of noncompliance. If the proposal is not in compliance after the cure period, it will be returned to the applicant without review; proposals in compliance will be forwarded electronically to a review panel.

Proposals will be reviewed and rated by a panel comprised of NSU faculty/researchers. Reviewers conduct their reviews independently and scores from each review are generated to tabulate a final score. **Applicants are reminded to write their proposals for a general audience and provide sufficient explanation of any technical information so content is understandable to nonexperts in the field.** Jargon should be avoided.

Reviewers will adhere to a strict timeline for reading and evaluating the proposals.

Once all reviews are complete, the highest ranked proposals will be presented to the President. The President will make the final selection of award winners. Notification letters are set for distribution in late June. All applicants are provided their final score in notification letters. Funded projects begin July 1, 2026, pending compliance with post-award procedures.

***Please be aware that the level of external funding an individual may have for other projects is not considered in the evaluation of the individual's QOL application. Each project or submission is to be graded on its own merits, and not on the investigator's past or present external funding.***

## 9 AWARD RECOGNITION

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Each year, the President recognizes participants in the QOL competition on the QOL website. Details will be announced after award decisions are made. For information on past winners, please visit QOL website, <https://www.nova.edu/quality-of-life/index.html>

## 10 POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

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Principal investigators of awarded projects will be required to complete a final report of outcomes within 90 days of the conclusion of their projects. **Prior to award closure, PI's have the opportunity to submit a standard request for a No Cost Extension of up to one year. Second No Cost Extensions will require further justification and extenuating circumstances. Under very few circumstances will a third No Cost Extension be granted.**

## 11 CONTACT INFORMATION

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For questions regarding the QOL application, please email [qol@nova.edu](mailto:qol@nova.edu).