

Introduction

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by soliciting relatively small donations from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. This policy applies to crowdfunding campaigns undertaken by any individual associated with the University of Iowa (e.g. faculty, staff or students) using the *GOLDrush* or a third party crowdfunding platform.

Policy

1. The University of Iowa Center for Advancement's Office for Annual Giving Programs is responsible for the management of the *GOLDrush* platform. Individual project owner responsibilities are outlined in the *GOLDrush* Welcome Packet.
2. The use of crowdfunding to raise funds in support of a project is subject to all [University policies](#) and local, state and federal laws. This includes all applicable [research compliance](#) policies including, but not limited to, policies on human subjects research, use of vertebrate animals, use of biohazardous materials, conflict of interest, intellectual property, and research integrity.
3. Projects that use University resources or facilities, or that involve human or animal subjects, controlled substances or proprietary materials are required to use the *GOLDrush* platform for crowdfunding and must receive approval from the appropriate officials as set forth in the UI Crowdfunding Guidelines.
4. Projects that do not use UI facilities or resources and that do not involve human subjects, animal subjects, controlled substances, or proprietary materials may utilize third party crowdfunding platforms and do not require University approval. Such campaigns may not use the UI name, logos or trademark. Funds raised will be received directly by the campaign owner and may be considered personal income for tax purposes. Campaign owners should carefully review platform policies and consult their own legal counsel and financial advisor with respect to crowdfunding implications.
5. The University of Iowa Center for Advancement (UICA) will accept and record the receipt of funds on behalf of the University and a project specific gift or grant account will be created and managed by the appropriate office. Project funds will be available 30 days after the close of the campaign. UICA reserves the right to refuse donations and contributions from any crowdfunding effort hosted on any platform other than *GOLDrush*.

6. Campaign owners will be responsible for indentifying potential contributors. UICA will not provide donor names or contact information.
7. *GOLDrush* does not provide intellectual property protection and disclosing an invention through a public crowdfunding campaign before a patent has been filed may result in lost intellectual property rights. In addition, the results of the work funded under the crowdfunding program will be treated similarly to other funded research at the University of Iowa i.e., the University of Iowa Intellectual Property Policy will apply.
8. When a campaign does not meet its funding goal, the campaign owner may reduce the scope of the project or deposit the funds in a departmental account. The University of Iowa will not supplement or provide cost share for crowdfunded projects.