

# SEI Futures Fund Grant Request Guidelines – FY2028

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For Funding Term: October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028

**Let's build the future together—SEI Members, share your most creative and impactful project ideas to elevate structural engineering.**

## Strategic Focus Areas

Proposals must align with one or more of the following SEI Futures Fund priorities:

- Invest in the Future of the Profession
- Promote Student Interest in Structural Engineering
- Support Younger Member Involvement in SEI Activities
- Enhance Opportunities for Professional Development

The Futures Fund Board is particularly interested in the impact of artificial intelligence and technology on the future of the profession. Proposed deliverable, if approved, will be disseminated broadly via SEI/ASCE to the industry.

Note: Technical research proposals should be submitted to the SEI Technical Community Executive Committee, not the Futures Fund. While the Futures Fund will not fund research, we are excited to help fund ways to bring research findings to the profession. The Futures Fund supports IMPACT - people, activities, and materials needed to turn ideas into action.

## Eligibility & Requirements

- Activities must benefit the structural engineering profession and/or SEI as a whole.
- Requires endorsement from the SEI parent committee (SEI Board or Community ExCom).
- Funding is not provided for standing committee operating expenses, volunteer labor/time, or committee work.
- Proposals are subject to SEI Staff review for operational viability.

## Funding & Execution

- Activities should be completed within the FY2028 funding term. For efforts that need more than one year, submit as a phased approach. Each year will be reviewed for funding independently and each year must have a deliverable.
- Extensions (up to one year) require a brief progress report and completion plan submitted by June 1.

- Start-up programs must include a plan for long-term financial sustainability.
- If proposing in-person events, include a contingency plan for virtual format and budget differences.
- Include strategies to expand participation (e.g., hybrid/virtual formats) and record events for future use.
- Involve younger members to help develop future SEI leaders.

## Timeline

| Deadline           | Task                                                                                | Responsible Party              |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 2026       | Review call for new activities and proposal guidelines with SEI Community ExComs    | SEI Futures Fund Board/Staff   |
| By March 1, 2027   | Vet project plan/concept with SEI Community ExCom/liaisons and Staff Contact        | Committee/SEI Entity Proposing |
| By May 1, 2027     | Submit final proposal to Community ExCom and Staff Contact for review/endorsement   | Committee/SEI Entity Proposing |
| By June 1, 2027    | Submit endorsed proposal to Suzanne Fisher (sfisher@asce.org) + 1–2 min pitch video | ExCom or Committee             |
| August 2027        | Funding decisions announced                                                         | SEI Futures Fund Board/Staff   |
| March 1, 2028      | Progress update due                                                                 | Funded Project Teams           |
| June 1, 2028       | Second progress update due                                                          | Funded Project Teams           |
| September 30, 2028 | Final report due (including lessons learned)                                        | Funded Project Teams           |

## Proposal Format (Max 5 page word doc, with page numbers)

Make sure to include:

- Activity Name
- SEI Entity Submitting Request

- Submitter Info – Name, role, contact details
- Parent Committee Endorsement – Statement of support and confirmation of non-eligibility for division funding
- Date Submitted
- Need Statement – What is the problem and how do you know?
- Intent/Goals – What will the activity accomplish?
- Execution Plan – How will it be accomplished?
- Benefit to SE Profession/SEI as a whole
- Alignment with Strategic Areas
- Success Metrics – What does success look like? How will it be measured?
- Expertise Needed – Who will provide it?
- Acknowledgment Plan – Include: “Made possible by SEI Futures Fund – [www.asce.org/SEIFuturesFund](http://www.asce.org/SEIFuturesFund)”
- Funding Request – Detailed budget and timeline (Oct 2027 – Sept 2028), including minimum and maximum amount requested
- Sustainability Plan – If applicable, for permanent programs
- Other Funding Sources – Detail any committed funds (source, amount, etc.)

## **Pitch Video**

The proponent must include a 1-2 minute video to personalize the submittal.