

SEI Futures Fund Grant Request Guidelines – FY2027

For Funding Term: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

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

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.
- Must not be eligible for funding through SEI Division or operating funds.
- 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 FY2027 funding term.
- 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 2025	Review call for new activities and proposal guidelines with SEI Community ExComs	SEI Futures Fund Board/Staff
By March 1, 2026	Vet project plan/concept with SEI Community ExCom/liaisons and Staff Contact	Committee/SEI Entity Proposing
By May 1, 2026	Submit final proposal to Community ExCom and Staff Contact for review/endorsement	Committee/SEI Entity Proposing
By June 1, 2026	Submit endorsed proposal to Suzanne Fisher (sfisher@asce.org) + 1-2 min pitch video	ExCom or Committee
August 2026	Funding decisions announced	SEI Futures Fund Board/Staff
March 1, 2027	Progress update due	Funded Project Teams
June 1, 2027	Second progress update due	Funded Project Teams
September 30, 2027	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”
- Funding Request – Detailed budget and timeline (Oct 2026 – Sept 2027), 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

We are encouraging submitters to include a 1-2 minute video to personalize the submittal. This helps the Futures Fund understand the 5W's of your submittal. If you think this will help bolster your case, please submit.