



**Bankhead Coley Cancer Research Program  
and  
James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program**

**FY 2014/2015 Funding Opportunity Announcement  
Questions and Answers**

**August 7, 2014**

1. It seems to me that the Research Infrastructure grant mechanism for both of the programs is limited—meaning that institutions can only submit one application. If this Infrastructure mechanism is limited, am I to assume that all of the other mechanisms can have unlimited proposals from institutions?

Universities and research institutions may be the lead on one infrastructure grant, and may also collaborate with other organizations for other infrastructure grants. The number of projects submitted for other funding mechanisms is not limited, except that a researcher can only submit one application to the Bankhead-Coley program, and one application to the King program.

2. On page 4 of the King announcement, it begins with an introduction to the program. Then under section 2 (research priorities), the first 6 of 8 priorities focus on cancer, and the last two are of no significance to the type of research I conduct. It states that the LOI must address how my proposed research is related to one of those 8 priorities, yet they all deal with only cancer and not other diseases you can get from tobacco use. Then, in Section 2 (page 16), it returns back to any disease related to tobacco use, including cancer. It appears as if sections 1.1 and 2.1 are contradicted by section 1.2 (the research priorities).

The Biomedical Research Advisory Council (BRAC) advises the State Surgeon General as to the direction and scope of the biomedical research program. The responsibilities of the council may include, but are not limited to:

- Providing advice on program priorities and emphases.
- Developing criteria and standards for the award of research grants.

The priorities listed in this funding opportunity were developed by the BRAC based on the Strategic Goals and Tactics developed in 2014. Funding opportunity announcements may vary in areas of focus and in the types of funding mechanisms offered, but will be based on the Strategic Research Goals, available at:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/research/FINAL-BRAC-Strategic-Goals-and-Tactics.pdf>

3. I am an adjunct associate professor at a University in Florida. Can I apply for a Bankhead-Coley program as Principal Investigator, provided that the University supports the proposal and hires at full time if funded? I just have submitted the other proposal to NIH with the same credentials.

To be eligible the researcher must be a full-time faculty member by the time the application is submitted. Temporary faculty members, even though full-time, are not eligible to apply.

4. Can I and a Research Associate Professor serve as co PIs on a grant together or does there need to be a single PI?

There needs to be one designated Principal Investigator. Additional researchers would be listed as Co-Principal Investigators. There can be multiple collaborators on a project, but there must be only one principal investigator.

5. On reading page 17-18 on the James and Esther King it states: a PI can “submit a single resubmission of the same or very similar project, regardless of change in application title for both Bankhead Coley and James and Esther King Programs” Let on page 18 it states you cannot submit “duplicate projects or projects with significant scientific or financial overlap to both ...” Can you clarify if the initial project cannot be a duplicate how could a resubmission be a duplicate?

Researches may submit revised applications that were previously submitted but unfunded. A researcher may resubmit an application only one time. For example, if an application was not funded on initial submission, it may be revised and submitted one more time. However, if an application has previously been submitted more than one time, it may not be submitted again for this competition.

Researches can submit one project to King and one project to Bankhead-Coley, but they must be different projects. However, researchers may not submit the same applications, or substantially similar applications as determined by the Department, to both the King and Bankhead-Coley Program.

6. Is it possible to submit a proposal to the Clinical Research grant mechanism if the research only involves patient tissue samples rather than a truly clinical study? Would this be more appropriate for the Discovery Science mechanism even though it is focused on a specific disease and technology?

Refer to the definitions of Clinical Research and Discovery Science found in the funding opportunity. Research on tissues may be considered a clinical study if the purpose is to develop a test kit or other test to diagnose disease or assess treatment options, where there is a plan to submit results to the FDA for marketing approval. Discovery science means fundamental theoretical or experimental investigative research, but can include a focus on a specific disease. If the project involves promising technologies that could lead to innovations in prevention, diagnosis or treatment of tobacco-related diseases, then the project could be submitted under the Technology Transfer Feasibility priority.

7. The current FY 2014-2015 Funding Opportunity is very different from the JEK 2013 Summer Grant opportunity. However, I do believe I have a solid application from 2013 which I would like to expand/implement/improve so that it would meet criteria for the FY 2014-2015 Funding Opportunity under the category of Clinical Research. Therefore, my question is would this be considered as a First-time submission or not?

This is a resubmission. Per the funding opportunity, researchers may submit a single resubmission of the same or very similar project, regardless of change in application title for both Bankhead-Coley and James & Esther King Programs.

8. If this is not considered a first-time submission, I understand would need to provide a 2-page rebuttal to the prior critiques. My question is: would this go back to the same

reviewers? If so, would it be possible to know how my grant ranked and what was funding threshold?

For this funding opportunity, there is no requirement to provide a 2-page rebuttal to the prior critiques. Grant applications are evaluated by reviewers with appropriate qualifications and expertise. Applications are not automatically reviewed by the same peer reviewers who evaluated the project initially.

9. Has this type of funding opportunity for clinical research (budget of \$2 million over 5 years) been offered in the past? If so, is it possible to know the funding rate (number of applicants? how many funded?)

No, the program has not offered this type of funding opportunity in the past.

10. How many grants do you anticipate funding under this category for this FY application?

The Biomedical Research Advisory Council will review reports of the peer review and make recommendations for research grants to the State Surgeon General.

11. Could you please let me know if we are to conduct a clinical study using human subject blood or urine samples to validate a new diagnostic test for cancer detection, can this be considered in the Clinical Research program? The description on this program mentioned “treatment” of cancer, but does not specifically mention “diagnostics”.

Yes. See the answer to question 6.

12. In an introduction for the James and Esther King funding opportunity announcement for this funding opportunity, stroke is listed as one of the tobacco-related topics for supported research initiatives. However, stroke is not mentioned in the Research priorities section. Thus, could you please clarify whether basic preclinical research on the development of new therapeutic strategy for treatment of neonatal stroke and outcomes related to environmental tobacco exposure using animal models would qualify for funding or what type of stroke-related projects meet criteria for funding.

All applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed with the funding opportunity. The priorities listed in this funding opportunity were developed by the BRAC based on the Strategic Goals and Tactics developed in 2014. Priorities for this call include cancer-related morbidities in other systems. Based upon recommendations from the Biomedical Research Advisory Council, future Funding Opportunity Announcements may focus on other priorities.

13. I (at X institution) and my collaborator (at Y institution) want to submit a proposal to Bankhead-Coley program through Discovery Science mechanism. I have two questions. First, Does the grant allow joint (multiple) PIs, or just one single PI plus other Co-PI's? The second question would be related to the first question; if joint PIs are allowed, in the letter of intent, we should specify the lead organization should be two instead one, right?

See the answer to question 4.

14. The Research Priorities listed for this program are identical to those listed for the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program and deal only with tobacco use and cancer. Does this mean that the King program and the Bankhead Coley Programs are now essentially identical with respect to the research programs they will support?

No. See the answer to question 2. Based on recommendations from the Biomedical Research Advisory Council, future Funding Opportunity Announcements may focus on different priorities.

15. I recently submitted an application to the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program and we wanted to apply to the Bankhead Coley Bridge grant for this project but while they sent him a score (please see attached) he did not receive a percentile ranking. Would you be able to tell me if this project would qualify or if I would need to obtain the percentile somehow? Also, is there a time limit on what project would qualify for this bridge grant? This score was received in February of this year.

Reviewers will consider scores whether or not there is a percentile ranking. When the federal mechanism reports a score but does not provide a percentile ranking, applicants should contact their federal funding agency and request a percentile ranking if possible. The application to the federal agency must have been submitted within the past year from the closing date for applications in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

16. The guidelines state that the Principal Investigator may “Submit two completely different projects at the same time to the two Programs (Bankhead-Coley and King).” Does this mean that the PI may submit a limit of no more than two proposals as PI, and if they do submit two totally separate projects as a PI, must they be to two different Programs (one to Bankhead-Coley and one to James & Esther King), or may they both be under the same program (for instance, a Bridge proposal and a Clinical Research Proposal both to the Bankhead-Coley program, for entirely distinct work)?

See the answer to question 5. For this Funding Opportunity Announcement, researchers may only submit one application to Bankhead-Coley, and one application for King as the Principal Investigator.

17. Are grants related to the mechanisms/causes of heart failure or stroke appropriate for this call? Or does the cardiovascular disease have to be only secondary to cancer?

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is focused on cancer and treatment related morbidities. Applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed. See the answer to question 12.

18. Our chairman is submitting a proposal and he will be the PI. We have another faculty member who too will be submitting a proposal and he will be the PI. Can our Chairman be the PI on 1 grant and a CO PI on another submission?

Yes.

19. Regarding the James and Esther King grant mechanism: The priority focused on development and testing of new screening tools, no cancers are specified. We were wondering if an application that focuses on developing screening tools for other types of cancers (i.e. oral) would be considered under this funding mechanism?

The research priority focused on screening is not limited to a specific type of cancer, and also includes treatment-related morbidities.

20. The research priorities listed are lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma. If I have a researcher with a sound proposal involving a different cancer, would that proposal be considered?

Grant applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed in this Funding Opportunity Announcement. If the researcher selects a priority with specified cancers listed, the application must be responsive to one of the cancers listed.

21. Regarding the infrastructure grant mechanism: Can we put in an application responsive to both genomics and bioinformatics or only to one?

Applications can only be responsive to one of the infrastructure categories defined in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

22. Will all of the same application components and page limits also apply to the bridge grants, or will there be separate instructions released for the bridge grants?

The application components are the same for all of grant mechanisms.

23. I see in reviewing the current funding opportunities for the programs listed above that one of the Research Priorities is Technology Transfer Feasibility. However, I am not seeing which Mechanism of Support is appropriate for this priority. Could you clarify this for us?

For this Funding Opportunity Announcement, technology transfer projects must fall under one of the funding mechanisms provided. For example, a technology transfer project that requires clinical testing would fall under a clinical research mechanism; a project involving infrastructure would fall under the infrastructure mechanism.

24. Can multi-PI application be submitted for the Research Infrastructure and Discovery Science mechanisms?

There can only be one PI. See the answer to question 13.

25. Can we submit the Discovery Science Proposal for Bankhead Coley FY 2014-2015 as a two-PI grant?

There can only be one PI. See the answer to question 13.

26. In the 2014 program call, it is indicated that TTF applications can be submitted according to the criteria listed on pages 5-6 of the document. TTF is not, however, listed in the Table describing the mechanisms of support as shown at the bottom of pg. 6. Thus, it is not clear what the maximum duration and budget limitations are for this mechanism. We submitted a TTF proposal for this last year and the budget limit was \$100,000 for a maximum of 12 months.

My specific questions are as follows:

(1) What is the maximum budget for TTF proposal?

(2) What is the maximum duration for a TTF proposal?

(3) We submitted a TTF proposal last year that was reviewed but not funded. May we submit a revised version of that grant? If yes, then may we specifically address points raised by the previous review?

Technology transfer is a research priority, and projects must fall under one of the mechanisms provided in this call. The potential award amount is defined under these mechanisms. This Funding Opportunity Announcement does not include a separate mechanism for technology transfer.

27. Are there any funding opportunities for postdocs (PhD) working in the cancer (melanoma) field that are non-nationals?

See the Funding Opportunity Announcement, page 17. Applicants must be permanent residents or U.S. citizens. To be eligible, researchers must be from eligible

organizations, and must be full-time faculty members by the time the application is submitted.

28. Can a grant mechanism have PI and a co-PI? Some of these projects need expertise from two distinct disciplines so having two PIs (one will act as administrative) makes a good sense.

Yes. See the answer to question 13.

29. Can dual PI's be allowed for the Bankhead-Coley/ James and Esther King applications?

No. See the answer to question 13.

30. We have a group of investigators that are interested in applying for a Discovery Science grant but are unsure if Bankhead-Coley accepts applications for myeloma research based on the guidelines which state: Research with a focus on prevention and improved treatment or care delivery that contributes to reduction in deaths in lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma.

Discovery science applications must fall within a research priority defined in this Funding Opportunity Announcement. Discovery science mechanisms may cover any priority. The prevention and treatment priority is limited to lung, breast, prostate, colon cancers and melanoma.

31. There does not seem to be an appropriate mechanism for the Tech Transfer Feasibility applications – could you please let us know which mechanism to apply to for these proposals?

See the answer to question 26.

32. The James & Esther King priorities as listed appear to exactly match the Bankhead-Coley ones – e.g., limited to cancer. This is the case in both the instructions and the online application system. Could you please clarify the priorities for the James & Esther King program?

For this Funding Opportunity Announcement, King program priorities also include morbidities related to cancer. See the answer to question 2.

33. In the online application, it appears that Letters of Support are required. Are Letters of Support required?

Letters of support from the Tobacco Free Florida program are required when conducting research involving behavioral health and tobacco use. They are optional for other research.

34. In the online application, it appears that a Federal Agency Peer Review Summary Statement is required. The Federal Agency Peer Review Summary Statements are applicable only to the Bridge Award. Will we be able to submit a non-Bridge application without this attachment? If not, what shall we put in place of the attachment?

Yes. Federal agency peer review summary statements are only applicable for applicants for Bridge funding.

35. The space for the Research/Project Plan consists of text boxes. Will these text boxes support special characters (Greek letters, etc.)?

Yes.

36. There is a box in the General Project Information that asks if the applicant will need to submit images, but it is not clear where those images may be uploaded. Could you please clarify?  
If the answer to “Does the project involve images, tables and graphs” is yes, then Images may be uploaded as an attachment in the Upload tables, images or graph section. This section is viewable after the general project information form is complete.
37. The Facilities & Other Resources section is limited to 500 words, which is about a page of text. It says “Include a description of other support, if any.” Could you clarify what the phrase “other support” relates to – other support that may be available to this project?  
“Other support” can include organizational-support for research core services or other financial support.
38. If I PI wanted to send a couple samples to an organization outside of Florida for analysis (i.e. services), would this be allowable?  
Activities funded through this competition must occur in Florida. All work (effort) must occur and funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities. However, the Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside the state, and if the amount is less than 10% of the requested amount.
39. Is a Federal Agency Peer Review Summary Statement required for applications? I see it is shown as a required attachment in the online application, even if the ‘Bridge’ mechanism is not selected.  
No. See the answer to question 34.
40. I am interested in applying for the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program award (Discovery Science) but I am a little confused regarding the research priorities requirement. According to the published documentation, the purpose of the program is to "support research initiatives that address the health care problems of Floridians in the areas of tobacco-related cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease". However when I looked at the research priorities requirement there was only research priority that was tobacco-related ("Reduction of tobacco use in children, adolescents, and adults"), all the other priorities were cancer related. Is there program no longer interested in "Expanding the foundation of biomedical knowledge relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of diseases related to tobacco use, including cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease"? My proposal would investigate the biomedical pathways involved in tobacco-associated respiratory disease.  
See the answer to question 2.
41. How many awards are expected for these categories? Also, are these funding mainly reserved for big organizations or senior researchers? Would it be practical for an early career investigator to apply for it at all?  
There is no predetermined number of funded grants..  
The Biomedical Research Advisory Council will make recommendations on funding based on the results of peer-review. It is not possible to specify the number of awards in advance of the results of peer review. To be eligible, researchers must be from eligible organizations, and must be full-time faculty members by the time the application is submitted.
42. Please clarify Grant Application Components and page limits for the Bridge submission; pp18-21 do not specify grant mechanism(s).

Page limits are the same for all applications.

43. In January 2014, we received enthusiastic review and score of 21% for NIH/NCI R01 submission; but unfortunately were not funded due to budgetary constraints. Are we eligible to submit this for the Bridge mechanism?  
No. Applications must have scored a 16% or better to be eligible.
44. I have one investigator who will be submitting two separate applications – 1 to each funding opportunity. Is this possible?  
Yes. See the answer to question 5. Researchers may submit one project to King, and one to Bankhead-Coley but they must be different projects.
45. How do researchers submit more than one application (one for King, one for Bankhead-Coley)?  
Researchers should create an application for one program. Then after this is created, the system will allow the researcher to create an application for the other program. Please contact program staff with specific technical support questions.
46. What constitutes “team science”? Multiple faculty from the same institution?  
A team science project can be within a single eligible institution (intra-institutional) or can involve more than one eligible institution (inter-institutional).
47. Is it possible to upload a pdf of the research plan? The website seems to only want plain text, no figures.  
Information about the research plan should be provided in plain text form. If the researcher has tables, graphics, or charts, the researcher should select “yes” to the question about whether there are tables, graphics, or charts, and researchers will see an option to upload images.
48. Where do we enter or upload our information on Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, consultants, etc. that is separate from the Research/Project Plan?  
Once the general project information is complete, the options to provide additional information about, for example, human subjects, will appear. If the researcher indicates human subjects are not involved, then this form will not appear as a task. The additional forms are viewable after the general project information form is complete.
49. Where do we upload the Research/Project Milestone Chart?  
A research project milestone chart is not required. We will issue an addendum to the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
50. Where do we upload the Cover Page/Certification Page?  
The “cover/certification page” will appear at the end of the application, at the end of the conflict of interest questions.
51. Is the “Project Summary” text box the same as the “General Audience Abstract”?  
Yes.
52. I have a question in regards to the tables/figures upload. Is this limited to only one (1) page? Do the figure legends need to be included in this document?  
Researchers may upload one document with many pages. Figure legends need to be included in the document.

53. Is the “Funding Agency Peer Review Summary Statement” is a required upload and if applications that have not been reviewed by the NIH are eligible to be submitted.  
Federal agency peer review summary statements are only applicable for applicants for Bridge funding.
54. For resources part you only allow 2 pages, as we having 3 collaborating institutions with us so can we add extra resources materials as appendixes.  
Provide a summary within specified space requirements.
55. Could you please let us know what are the criteria for a proposal to be considered as team science application? Is there a specific requirement on the number of PI and co-PIs, and the number of participating institutions?  
See the answer to question 46.
56. For an application addressing the research priority of Technology Transfer Feasibility (TTF), is the Tech Transfer Advisor Statement of Support required?  
No.
57. In the Scientific Abstract section, it is stated in the instruction that the abstract is limited to 300 words. However, the actual abstract box allows maximum words of 500. Could you please clarify whether it is 300 words or 500 words?  
500 words. We will issue an addendum updating the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
58. One of the key areas of “screening” research involves data-mining and code writing. Even simple scripts and modest results can involve large files that cannot be included in the body of a 12 page application. Without one example collection of results of a novel scriptable algorithm, it will be difficult for applicants to establish code-writing credibility. Is original code, or are example results printed to Excel files, considered to be “survey instruments”?  
Original code can be considered a survey instrument.
59. Can applicants budget for use of core facilities that are outside of the state of Florida?  
See the answer to question 38.
60. For the King grants: I have a collaborator at a highly prestigious university who will be preparing reagents for anticancer testing in my lab. Is there a way to get funds to my collaborator for this purpose; i.e., is this allowed?  
Yes. Consultant fees are allowable expenses if they are located within state of Florida.
61. While I am preparing the online submission, I encountered another problem: on the page that summarize my working progress, next to the button “Submit Your Application”, there was a line “Prerequisites not met” with a date of 05/12/2014 5:00 pm. What does this mean? What kind of prerequisites are needed?  
Issue has been resolved in the online system
62. Do you accept Bio-sketches in the NIH format?  
Yes.

63. I am planning to send two completely different grant proposals to Bankhead-Coley and accordingly, I sent two LOIs. Now, to upload two projects, do I have to register twice?  
Researchers can only submit one application per funding program, and if seeking funding from King and Bankhead-Coley, the applications must be about different projects.  
To create more than one application (one for each funding program), researchers should create an application for one program. Then after this is created, the system will allow the researcher to create an application for the other program. Please contact program staff with specific technical support questions.
64. It states in the RFP that an investigator is allowed to submit more than one application for consideration to the FLDOH programs, however, the online system seems to not allow this to occur. How do we start a second application in the system?  
See the answer to question 63.
65. When two research institutions participate in same grant, how should the budget be handled in the form (sub-contract in contractual and new templates for the subcontract?)  
The lead institution should complete the budget form and include the collaborating institutions as a contractual expense.
66. If we are allowed to submit the bridge grant application for this cycle. When will we know your decision?  
Awards will be announced on or around December 12, 2014 per the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
67. Please note that the instructions on the website do not match at all the instructions in the call. For example, the website talks about word counts, while the call talks about page limits. Which is correct?  
Use the instructions in the online application system for word counts instead of the description of page limits in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
68. "New Investigator" is not defined. Who qualifies as a new investigator?  
In general, a Principal Investigator is considered a New Investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully as PI for a substantial independent federally-funded research award, including but not limited to the following NIH award mechanisms, or similar mechanisms in other funding agencies:
- Pathway to Independence Award-Research Phase (R00)
  - Small Grant (R03)
  - Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)
  - Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21)
  - Research Education Grants (R25, R90, RL9, RL5)
  - Clinical Trial Planning Grant (R34)
  - Dissertation Award (R36)
  - Small Business Technology Transfer Grant-Phase I (R41, UT1)
  - Small Business Innovation Research Grant-Phase I (R43, U43)
  - Shannon Award (R55)
  - NIH High Priority, Short-Term Project Award (R56)
  - Competitive Research Pilot Projects (SC2, SC3)
  - Resource Access Award (X01)

Additionally, the PI is not excluded from consideration as a “New Investigator” if he/she has been the PI of received an award from any of the following classes of awards:

Training-Related and Mentored Career Awards:

- All Fellowships (F awards)
- All individual and institutional career awards (K awards)
- Loan repayment contracts (L30, L32, L40, L50, L60)
- All training grants (T32, T34, T35, T90, D43)
- Instrumentation, Construction, Education, Health Disparity Endowment Grants, or Meeting Awards
- G07, G08, G11, G13, G20
- R13
- S10, S15, S21, S22