



Frequently Asked Questions

FY 2016-2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program (King)
Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program (Bankhead-Coley)

- 1. Does the exception for out-of-state work include foreign entities? That is, can a small part of the budget (<10%) be used for work provided by a collaborator outside the United States if it is essential and not provided in Florida?**

The Principal Investigator must provide justification describing how the out of state work is related and essential to the project and why the service can only be provided outside of Florida. If awarded, the Department reserves the right to: 1) require further justification, 2) reject any disallowed costs, and 3) request new/revised budgets as it deems necessary.

- 2. Can you please clarify, for the bridge grant mechanism, will there be a place to upload files for the qualifying federal grant application research plan and for the summary statement? Should the bridge grant's specific aims and research plan be the same as for the qualifying federal proposal of longer duration, or a separate and specific plan to be accomplished within the 6-month bridge grant duration?**

Applicants who are applying for a bridge grant are only required to upload their Federal Agency Peer Review Summary Statement. Applications should describe in the Research/Project Plan section, the specific research that will be performed as a result of a 6 month Bridge Grant award, including its relationship to the aims and experiments included in the Qualifying Federal Proposal.

- 3. If the lead institution has a collaboration with another institution then can only one of them charge indirect costs and not both on the proposal?**

Both can charge indirect costs as long as the indirect costs are limited to 15 percent of the total amount of direct costs requested.

- 4. I have a project focused on improving drug treatment of metastatic brain tumors and I am wondering if this topic is eligible for this program. While brain cancers are not among the cancers mentioned in the 7 research priorities (lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma), lung, breast and melanoma cancers can spread to brain through metastasis.**

Grant applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed in this Funding Opportunity Announcement. If the researcher selects a priority which lists specific cancers, the application must be responsive to one of the cancers listed (lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma). If the application

involves a different cancer than the specified cancers listed, the application must include justification as to how and why the proposal is linked to a specific cancer listed.

5. **The Application Components on page 19 of the announcement indicates that "Survey Instruments" must be uploaded. My project will use several standard neuropsychological tests. To upload them would require that they be scanned, which would make for a large file. Since these tests are widely used and not created for this project, is it necessary to upload these documents?**

Survey instruments are required, if applicable. Peer reviewers evaluate only the materials in the application, and do not consider other sources of information.

6. **For the Discovery Science grant mechanism, the maximum amount for support is \$1.5 million (direct and indirect costs) for a maximum of 3 years, can the maximum amount of support be divided as needed by the project? For example; for a 2 year proposal, \$1 million for year 1 and \$500,000 for year 2.**

Yes. The budget must explain the planned spending. If awarded, the Department will review and approve/deny the budget prior to the grant starting. The Department reserves the right to: 1) require further justification, 2) reject any disallowed costs, and 3) request new/revised budgets as it deems necessary.

7. **How does one go about seeking to get approval for spending the less than 10% of the requested budget that may be allowed on out of state resources that cannot be found in the state of Florida? Does one simply apply for the grant and state in the budget that these are necessary out of state requested expenses, and then hope that this is later approved?**

Yes. The Principal Investigator must provide justification describing how the out of state work is related and essential to the project and why the service can only be provided outside of Florida. If awarded, the Department reserves the right to: 1) require further justification, 2) reject any disallowed costs, and 3) request new/revised budgets as it deems necessary.

8. **Would members of an external advisory board be considered consultants?**

Yes.

9. **Can an application cross-cut two of the priority areas?**

No.

10. **In the Eligible Applicants section, it says, "the Corresponding Principal Investigator must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident." Can an H1B visa holder apply for this (as the Corresponding PI)?**

No, H1B visa holders are not eligible to serve as the Corresponding Principal Investigator.

11. **How many awards will be made for each program?**

The Biomedical Research Advisory Council will make recommendations on the number of awards based on peer review scores.

12. **Can there be more than one page of images, graphs and tables?**

Yes. Applicants may upload **one document**. The document may have several pages if absolutely necessary (if the figures go over one page). Figure legends need to be included in the document.

13. Can I submit a different project than the project that was originally on the Letter of Intent?

No.

14. Can we redirect an LOI from the Bankhead Coley Program to the James and Esther King Program?

No.

15. Can the Corresponding Principal Investigator be from a Florida small business entity?

Any researcher who is a full-time faculty member at a university or research institute in Florida is eligible to apply. Researchers at small business entities are not eligible, unless they otherwise are at universities or research institutes in Florida.

16. For the Financial Interest form, it only has “Corresponding Principal Investigator.” Are collaborators/co-PIs required to fill out this form as well?

The Corresponding Principal Investigator must disclose any financial interests that the researcher, the researcher’s immediate family, or any other personnel on the grant (sub-investigators and research staff) and their immediate families, have related to the research. If funded, financial disclosures for all personnel must be submitted.

17. Can a researcher be listed as key personnel on two different grant applications as long as the projects are completely different and effort is not over-committed?

Yes. A researcher can be a Corresponding Principal Investigator on only one application per program. However, they may serve as a co-PI or other collaborating role on other applications, provided they are not over-committed.

18. If applying for a Bridge grant, is the budget only to be in a 6 month proposed format or do you need to see the entire 5 year budget based on the R01 we are applying for bridge funding?

The application only needs to include the 6 month budget for the grant.

19. Is graduate student tuition an allowable cost?

Yes.

20. 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 not required for other research.

21. How many awards are expected to be made? Are awards 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.

22. 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.

23. Can an adjunct associate professor apply for a grant through this funding opportunity as the Corresponding Principal Investigator providing that the university supports the proposed research and hires at full time if funded?

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.

24. If an applicant recently submitted grant application for federal funding (this could be through NIH, DOD, CDC, etc.) and wanted to apply to the Bankhead Coley Bridge grant for this project would they need to include the percentile ranking in their application materials? What if they receive a score, but no percentile ranking?

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 last 18 months from the closing date for applications in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

25. 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 tobacco morbidities. Applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed.

26. 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 respond to one of the cancers listed.

27. 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.

28. 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 each of the grants mechanisms.

29. I see 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.

30. 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.

31. Do you accept Bio-sketches in NIH format?

Yes.

32. Can I submit two completely different grant proposals to Bankhead-Coley? I submitted 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 by emailing us at research@flhealth.gov.

33. When two research institutions participate in the same grant, how should the budget be handled in the form?

The lead institution should complete the budget form and include the collaborating institutions as a contractual expense.

34. When will we know your decision?

Awards will be announced on or around January 15, 2017 per the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

35. The guidelines for Research Infrastructure Grants stipulate that applications should describe:

“A scientific advisory process involving researchers from at least two of the major cancer centers in Florida, and at least two regional cancer centers.” Would we need to list two other major Cancer Centers besides ourselves? Please clarify. Does “regional” mean that we can only include cancer centers within Florida? And do these centers have to conduct research?

Yes, you would need to list two other major cancer centers in Florida besides your institution. The scientific advisory process must involve researchers from at least two academic medical centers that receive direct appropriations for biomedical research from the Legislature, and at least two hospitals considered regional cancer centers.

36. Are appendices allowed?

No.

37. Can a proposal for which a LOI was submitted for Bankhead-Coley be switched to the James and Esther King program?

No.

38. Are tobacco use/smoking proposals fundable as Bankhead-Coley grants?

All Bankhead-Coley applications must be responsive to one of the research priorities listed within the Bankhead-Coley funding opportunity.

39. Most of the statements in the FOA's "Screening" Priority refer to screening of humans for early detection of cancer or preventable cancer. Would "Screening" also include environmental assessment/screening mechanisms of environmental conditions associated with risk of cancer or tobacco-related diseases?

Environmental assessments can be included if they are used for early detection of cancer or preventable cancer in humans.

40. According to the FOA, "Clinical Research" can involve behavioral health interventions. Can it also include environmental interventions that directly "involve a particular person or group of people" in reducing exposure to risk conditions?

Clinical trials are prospective biomedical or behavioral studies on human subjects that are designed to answer specific questions about the safety and efficacy of an intervention (such as a drug, device or behavioral health intervention). Manipulations of the subject or the subject's environment that are performed for research purposes, and communication or interpersonal contact between investigator and participant may be considered clinical investigations.

41. We received a positive review and score of 21% for NIH/NCI R01 submission. Unfortunately we were not funded due to budgetary constraints. Are we eligible to submit this for the Bridge funding mechanism?

No. Applications must have scored a 16% or better in order to be eligible.