



## Questions and Answers through November 9

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### FY 2016-2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

#### Zika Research Grant Initiative

**1. Is it possible to get an exception to the rule of only 10% of funds to an institution outside of Florida?**

Yes. The Department has issued an amendment to the FOA regarding this issue.

The purpose of this announcement is to revise the 10% cap on out of state expenses. On page 16 of the current FOA it states that,

**Work Must Occur in Florida:**

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 Florida, and if the amount is less than 10 percent of the requested amount.**

This amendment revises the highlighted portion to read as follows: “However, the Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside Florida, and if the amount is less than 50% of the requested amount.”

**2. For a vaccine to be approved in the US (Florida being a prime target population with the most cases in the US) Phase II should be done in a relevant endemic population so we can prove efficacy. If, during our next season of high transmission and vector density, we are unable to identify a target population in Florida, may Phase II trials being conducted in an endemic country for which we have a formally established Campus and faculty on the ground?**

Yes. Please see the amendment to the FOA in the answer to question number 1.

- 3. Could you please clarify the difference between "Collaborator" and "Project Personnel" for the Letter of Intent? The FOA defines Collaborator and Key Personnel, but does not define Project Personnel, and states in the definition of Collaborator that a Collaborator is identified as Key Personnel.**

The FOA provides the following definition for Collaborator: "An individual involved with the Corresponding Principal Investigator in the scientific development or execution of the project. These individuals typically devote a specific percent of effort to the project and are identified as key personnel. The collaborator may be employed by, or affiliated with, either the Grantee institution or an institution participating in the project under a consortium or contractual agreement."

The FOA also provides the following definition of key personnel: "Key personnel are defined as, and should be limited to, individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive way, whether or not salaries are requested."

"Key personnel" is a broader term than "Collaborator." The functions of these roles may be similar, however, collaborators tend to receive some portion of their salary as compensation for their effort on the research, whereas "Key Personnel" may or may not receive compensation for their effort.

"Project personnel" was used in the LOI as a term to indicate anyone working on the project who would not fit the definition of a collaborator. They may fall under the broader term of "key personnel," contributing to the scientific development or execution of the project. On the other hand, they may serve in a project management role.

- 4. We are planning to submit a letter of intent to the Zika Research Grant Initiative, supporting a collaboration between a team of researchers at two Florida-based entities. The project we propose will require some science and technology development, where the collaboration of the two entities with a biotech organization will be essential. Both entities are established research institutions in the state of Florida. One is an independent research institution, and the other is a unit of one of Florida's public universities. When we examine the "eligibility requirements", we cannot see clearly which of the two would be the preferred primary applicant, and which would be the preferred subcontractor. Will either do? Do you prefer one over the other?**

If both entities are established research institutions in the state of Florida, then either of them could apply as the lead institution. It is the applicant's responsibility to decide which institution would be best suited to fill the role of lead institution. The Corresponding Principal investigator must be a full-time faculty member at the lead institution by the time the application is submitted. You may consider also the facilities and other resources available at both institutions and the capacity of each institution to support your proposed research project.

- 5. I am going to apply for an Investigator Initiated grant. Is there a limit on budget size, if I choose to do a modular budget? For example, \$250,000 is the limit in the case of NIH R01 grants.**

All grant proposals are subject to the budget limits outlined on page 6 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Although the National Institutes of Health requires modular budgets on its

grant applications, the Florida Department of Health does not follow this budget format. Modular budgets do not provide the type of detailed budget information that we require in our applications. Applicants must use the budget format presented on pages 44 and 45 of the FOA.