



## **Biomedical Research Advisory Council**

William G. "Bill" Bankhead Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program

James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program

Live Like Bella Pediatric Cancer Research Initiative

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### **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Funding Opportunity Announcement**

**August 9, 2024 - Webinar**

**Questions and Answers**

1. For the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program the preferential cancers are melanoma, breast, lung, colorectal, and prostate, but the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program, Fiscal Year 2024-25 says that this year Leukemias are priority. One or the other? Or both?

All cancer types are considered for funding including Leukemia. “Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project is relevant to cancer (Bankhead Coley grants), tobacco related diseases (James and Esther King grants) and pediatric cancer (Bankhead Coley and Live Like Bella grants). Proposals that do not or cannot demonstrate a close relationship with advancing progress toward cures for cancer or endeavor to dramatically improve cancer morbidity and mortality will not be funded.” (FOA p. 17 1. *Cancer/Tobacco Relatedness*)

2. Is a grant for a non-preferred cancer realistic to pursue or is there still a chance of funding?

All cancer types are considered for funding. Individual reviewers will review and rate applications, including assessing cancer-relatedness, health impact, examining budget requests, and recommending the level of support necessary to complete the work. (FOA p. 31 Peer Review)

3. What is the difference between project personnel and collaborators?

Personnel are paid employees from grant funds, collaborators can be paid or unpaid and may or may not be employees. “Key Personnel are the individuals whose particular expertise is critical to the success of the project. The Corresponding Principal Investigator, Project Director, and Mentor are always included in Key Personnel. Key Personnel are identified as such in the approved budgets,” (page 53, [Grant Administration Manual - December 2018 Edition](#))

4. Can co-principal investigators (CO-PIs) be listed?

Co-principal investigators (CO-PIs) must be listed as key personnel. A CO-PI can share duties on the project and have similar or comparable skills and expertise. A CO-PI may be a new investigator that is being mentored by the PI. However, the “Principal Investigator (PI) is the one key Grantee contact who has sole responsibility for the overall performance of the project,” (page 53, [Grant Administration Manual - December 2018 Edition](#))

5. Can “eligible applicant” be defined in Section D. “Duplication Application and Overlap Limits” on pg. 19 of the current funding announcement? More specifically, does “eligible applicant” refer to submitting PI or institution?

Duplication Applications and Overlap Limits refer to the Corresponding Principal Investigator. “Eligible applicants can submit one application to the Bella Initiative, one application to the Bankhead-Coley program, and one application to the James and Esther King program. Applications must be different. Applicants may not submit the same applications, or substantially similar applications as determined by the Department, to the Bella Initiative, Bankhead-Coley program, and James and Esther King program.” (FOA p.19 D. *Duplication Applications and Overlap Limits*)

6. Is the Research Infrastructure mechanism limited to one per organization per funding mechanism, per research program within an organization, or one per organization, overall?

“Organizations will only be permitted to be the lead on one application but may be collaborators on applications submitted by other organizations,” (FOA page 10 *Research Infrastructure*).

7. On p. 19 of the same funding opportunity, it indicates that “Eligible [applicants](#) can submit one application to the Bella Initiative, one application to the Bankhead-Coley program, and one application to the James and Esther King program.” Does “applicant” here refer to the Principal Investigator, or the applicant organization?

Applicant in this section refers to the Corresponding Principal Investigator (FOA page 19 section D. Duplication Applications and Overlap Limits)

8. Can Research Scientists be the PI on the Bankhead Coley proposals?

The Corresponding Principal Investigator is responsible and accountable to applicant’s organizational officials for the proper conduct of the project. Please consult with your organizational officials over sponsored research.

9. Please provide an update on the Moore Alzheimer Disease Research Program.

The [Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) was posted on 08/15/2024.

10. For new investigator research, a senior investigator is needed as mentor. Is a senior investigator an associate professor or professor?

The role of the Mentor is to provide guidance, support, and experience to the CO-PI. The Mentor should provide scientific advice, grant experience, project management guidance, and lab management counsel related to the project. Furthermore, the Mentor is chosen by the CO-PI and should provide guidance in the development of the new investigator so that he/she can undertake independent research that is competitive for national research funding,” ( page 7, [Grant Administration Manual - December 2018 Edition](#))

11. Can Post-Doctoral Students be CO-PIs?

All CO-PIs should meet your institution’s criteria for serving as a principal investigator.

12. Can a collaborator/consultant be out of state?

It is the intent of the Department that activities funded through the Department, including data analysis, occur in Florida. One hundred percent of work (effort) must occur in Florida at the applicant’s organization and any 23 collaborating entities. However, if pre-approved, the Department may make exceptions if the service is essential, only provided outside the state, and if the subcontract amount is less than 10% of the awarded grant amount. (pages 22 and 23, [Grant Administration Manual – December 2018 Edition](#))

13. Is there a deadline to request letters of support from FCDS (Heather Lake-Burger)?

The deadline was August 15<sup>th</sup> (FOA page 13, 4. Highlights)

14. Equipment grants: - What if the equipment is over 100K which is the allocated budget? - How can we find examples of previously funded Equipment applications?

The grant allows a maximum of \$100,000 for equipment within one year. Institutions with a purchase over \$100,000 may use other funds to complete the purchase. (FOA page 9, Mechanisms of Support)

15. Will you post more information on the new mechanism of funding "Emergent Therapeutics and Technologies"?

This funding mechanism supports research on emerging therapeutics and technologies used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and tobacco-related diseases. Examples include but are not limited to personalized/precision medicine therapies, immunotherapy, gene therapy, repurposing of previously used medications, use of artificial intelligence (AI) in diagnosis and treatment and comparative effectiveness trials of emerging treatments. Studies focused on innovations in diagnosis and treatment of cancer and tobacco-related morbidities also fall under this mechanism" (FOA Page 8, *Emerging Therapeutics and Technologies*)

16. New investigators must have been full-time faculty for no more than six years and must work under the mentorship of a senior investigator. How are the six years be calculated?

Your institution's Human Resources Department, or equivalent, should be able to provide you with your length of service as a full-time faculty member.

17. Are there other state funded grants you would recommend? I'm seeing this funding opportunity would not fund a medical device for cardiac surgery (non-cancer related).

Funding Opportunity Announcements offered by the Department can be found on the [Grant Opportunities and Notice of Awards](#) page of it's website.

18. Page 13 "All letters of support must be submitted to the appropriate Department of Health office no later than August 15, 2024." Does it refer to the "LOS request"?

Yes.

19. When you say you will respond later, will we get an email, or you will post the responses on the website?

All Questions and answers will be posted on the Biomedical Research Website under each program area.

20. Will applicants receive the reviewer comments following funding decisions?

All reviews comments will be sent via email to the PI 30-45 days after posting awards.

21. Is breast cancer considered a smoking related malignancy?

The Department is able to answer programmatic questions only.

22. Are proposals addressing cardiopulmonary diseases related to smoking in HIV-positive individuals a priority for the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program?

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 (FOA page 5 Overview – James & Esther King Research Program)

23. Can collaborators be investigators outside the US?

The Corresponding Principal Investigator must work at an eligible Florida-based institution and meet that institution's criteria for serving as a principal investigator in addition to the eligibility requirements listed in this FOA. The Corresponding Principal Investigator must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; unauthorized aliens shall not be employed pursuant to §274A(e) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a), section 101 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and Florida Executive Order 11-02. Non-U.S. citizens can serve as Collaborators or members of a research team.

24. Will this video be available after the meeting?

The informational webinar is available on our website:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/research/funding-opportunity-announcements/index.html>

25. Writing to inquire about the 'Research Infrastructure' grants that have been funded under the Bankhead-Coley Program in recent fiscal years. Specifically, I am interested in learning more about the types of projects that have received funding, as we are pursuing a PeerNet submission for this week.

Could you please provide detailed information on the following:

1. A list of projects that have been funded under the 'Research Infrastructure' category, and an abstract of each (if available)
2. Contact information for further inquiries or assistance with the application process.

For detailed information about previously funded programs, please refer to the Biomedical Research Annual Reports. The most recent report can be located at: [BRAC Annual Report](#)

26. After the letter of intent is reviewed, are full applications by invitation only or open to all who meet the LOI deadline?

Eligible applicants will receive an email notice to complete the application. Ineligible LOI respondents will be notified and not able to apply in the PeerNet system.

27. Is there a resource that will guide me for page limits?

Guidelines are available for each program on the website at: [FOA Character Limits](#).

28. The requirement of General Audience Abstract is no more than 3,500 characters. I am just wondering whether the 3,500 characters include spaces or not?

All characters count and they include spaces, letters, numbers, and punctuations. Anything that will cause a cursor to move counts as a character. Guidelines are available for each program on the website at: [FOA Character Limits](#).

29. What are the required total number of characters for the Descriptive Title of Proposed Research, Research Priority, and Key Words respectively?

Guidelines are available for each program on the website at: [FOA Character Limits](#).

30. What are the required contents for Research Priority?

All applications submitted in response to this FOA must be responsive to one of the seven research priorities. Efforts to foster collaborations among institutions, researchers, and community practitioners should be included, when possible. Priority will be given to applications that address at least one of the following: lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, or melanoma. 1. Prevention and Treatment: Research with a focus on prevention and improved treatment or care delivery that contributes to a reduction in deaths in at least one of the cancers listed above that disproportionately impacting individuals based on gender, race, ethnicity, or income. 2. Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Research that contributes to reductions in deaths due to the cancers listed in the priority section above resulting from disproportionately impacted [individuals due to race, ethnicity, or income](#). (FOA Page 8 -9, *Research Priorities*)

31. Is breast cancer considered a smoking related malignancy?

The Department is unable to advise on the preparation of specific grant awards.

31. I am a physician-scientist in Gyn Oncology and relatively new to Florida. I am learning more about funding opportunities in the state. I came across the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program and noticed that priority is given to 5 disease sites, which do not include any of the Gyn malignancies. I was wondering if I would still be able to apply in endometrial cancer or ovarian cancer. Endometrial cancer is the only disease site with worsening mortality over the past several decades and has the largest Black-White disparities.

The Department is unable to advise on the preparation of specific grant awards.