

Frequently Asked Questions – CPRIT Grants

What types of cancer research are eligible for CPRIT funding?

CPRIT will foster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of projects relevant to cancer research. Applications for CPRIT research funding may address any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure. CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to directly and indirectly benefit subsequent cancer research efforts, cancer public health policy, or the continuum of cancer care—from prevention to treatment and cure.

Will the scientific peer review groups meet in person?

The scientific peer review groups will meet two times a year in Dallas to review grants.

How will the money be divided among the various cancer research categories?

Division of money will be decided by the quality of the applications rather than by a predetermined quota.

What kinds of prevention research will be eligible for the research grants program?

There is no restriction on the type of research than can be supported by CPRIT other than it must be relevant to cancer. Proposals will be evaluated based on their significance and importance, as well as their feasibility, the qualifications of the investigator(s), etc.

Will there be a separate scientific review group for prevention research grants in the research program?

Not at this time. Currently, there are seven study sections for cancer research grant applications (three basic science review committees, three translational and clinical scientific review committees, and one interfaces scientific review committee.) Reviewers with expertise in prevention research are being recruited to join these committees. Depending on the number and type of applications received in response to the first round of cancer research RFAs, CPRIT may create additional review committees or recruit other reviewers with targeted expertise.

How will a partnership between researchers and industry be evaluated? (For example for the development of a screening device.)

All CPRIT grant applications that are not otherwise administratively rejected will undergo scientific review. As with any other research proposal, the scientific review will be concerned with importance, significance, and feasibility of the proposal. If the grant application involves commercialization issues (as identified by the applicant during the on-line application process), a separate review of the proposed business plan will also be undertaken.

Will training grants for pre and postdoctoral studies in prevention and cancer control be eligible for CPRIT funding?

Yes. There will be an RFA for training of predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers in the Research Grants Program. Institutional proposals focusing on pre or postdoctoral training in

cancer prevention and control research would be eligible to apply for funding from the Research Grants program.

If the recipient is awarded a CPRIT grant for a multi-year research project, is the recipient required to show dedicated funds for the entire project at the time of the award?

No. The recipient may demonstrate available funds on a year-by-year basis. For example, if the research grant is awarded for a five-year project where the recipient will receive \$2 million each year, the recipient's match requirement would be \$1 million for each year of the project, to be demonstrated at the time of each annual progress report.

Is there a cap on the number of applications that may be submitted by an institution for High Impact/High Risk grants per funding cycle?

Yes. The High Impact/High Risk RFA provides the maximum number of applications that may be submitted by various academic institutions and organizations. The institutional cap may be re-evaluated after the first funding cycle.

Does the person who applies for a CPRIT research grant have to come to the table with matching funds?

Generally, institutions or organizations, not individuals, will be the recipients of most CPRIT grants. CPRIT's proposed rule (§ 703.11) requires that at the time of the grant award (and then annually for multi-year awards), the academic health institution, university, government organization, non-government organization, public or private entity, or individual certifies: 1.) that it has funds, not yet expended, that equal one-half of the grant award(s); and 2.) that those funds will be spent on the same area of cancer research that is the subject of the grant. For purposes of this requirement, the applicant may rely upon a "Notice of Grant Award" to demonstrate funds that have been awarded and encumbered but not yet received by the applicant.

Will we need a letter stating the institution's matching funds?

Specific instructions on how institutions will certify their match will be issued at a later date. Evidence of matching funds is required at the time of the award contract, not when the application is submitted.

What does it mean that available funds must be spent in the same area of cancer research?

§703.11 provides five categories of cancer research that encompass most cancer projects. The subject matter of the grant and the recipient's available funds must be grouped in the same category.

The categories are:

- Cancer Biology and Genetics (includes molecular characterization of tumors)
- Cancer Immunology (includes vaccines)
- Cancer Imaging and Diagnostics
- Cancer Epidemiology, Population Research, Behavioral Research, and Outcomes
- Cancer Treatment (includes drug discovery and development and clinical trials)

Will there be feedback to the investigators regarding why a grant was triaged?

Yes. Brief feedback will be provided.

Are junior faculty members eligible for the Individual investigator award?

Yes.

Will sub-contracts be allowed for co-investigators outside the state of Texas?

The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, including a public or private institution of higher education, academic health institution, university, government organization, nongovernmental organization, other public or private company, or an individual residing in Texas. Collaborations are encouraged. However, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.

Does every investigator need to reside in the state of Texas?

Investigators who are supported by CPRIT grant funds must reside in Texas during the term of the research project.

Will I be able to use (and pay for) facilities outside of Texas?

State law requires that CPRIT grant recipients use best efforts to ensure that CPRIT funds be used to purchase goods and services in Texas. Equipment, materials, and services may be purchased from out-of-state vendors with proper justification. Out of state collaborators may not receive funds from CPRIT.

Investigators are limited to applying for one Individual Investigator research award. However, “collaborations are encouraged” according to the announcement. If an investigator is a collaborator on a project directed by another PI, may the same investigator serve as a PI on a different proposal during the same funding cycle?

Yes. An investigator may serve as PI on only one Individual Investigator application during this funding cycle. However, the same investigator may be listed as a collaborator (Co-PI, Other Senior Personnel) on a different application directed by another PI during the same funding cycle. Furthermore, an investigator submitting an Individual Investigator application as a PI may submit a High-Risk/High-Impact application during the same funding cycle. (Please note that the High-Impact/High-Risk applications are subject to an institutional cap on the total number of applications submitted). An investigator may not submit more than one application as a PI for the same grant mechanism during this funding cycle.

Has CPRIT placed any restrictions on visa requirements for recruits?

No.

Do you have any information on how to format the CPRIT grant proposals (i.e., font, font size, margins, etc)?

A separate document with specific formatting guidelines will be posted with each individual RFA.