Request for Applications

Strategic Investment Funding for projects requiring $5,000 to $20,000

KEY DATES

RFA release	August 12, 2019
Application deadline	**September 16, 2019**
Notification of award	October 11, 2019
Project period end date	June 30, 2020

[APPLY HERE](http://j.mp/32wGGzM)

(http://j.mp/32wGGzM)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Strategic Investment Funding award is specifically intended to provide critical support for a project that is close to achieving independent funding and has potential for high-impact in the investigator's field of research. This award provides **$5,000 to $20,000** in funding to **further a research initiative. Funds must be requested to support new activities.** Examples of appropriate funding requests include:

- Collection of preliminary data that are critical for the submission of near-term funding applications

- Augmentation of existing research: exploring additional analyses, exploration of related hypotheses, or collection of additional observations, with the goal of helping the researcher achieve specific outcomes or milestones

- The demonstration of proof of concept needed for the development of a technology or new product with biomedical impact, thus allowing licensing or the formation of a start-up

- Providing essential momentum for a new collaborative research focus (e.g. a multidisciplinary research group needing funds to enable a research conference with well- organized outcomes such as new grant preparation/submission)

Funds must be spent by June 30, 2020, aligning with OCTRI's grant project period. Awards are dependent on availability of funds and subsequent RFAs will be evaluated on an annual basis.

Please note, OCTRI may have several RFAs open at the same time. You may apply for multiple open OCTRI RFAs provided that the scope and budget for your applications do not overlap.

FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH ONLY:
The National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS) requires applicants to submit for prior approval. OCTRI staff will work with awardees to submit prior approval documentation, including: IRB approval, NIH biosketch, the clinical research protocol, informed consent, inclusion plans for women, minorities and children, a targeted enrollment table, assurance or certificate of protection of human subjects training, and a data and safety monitoring plan if appropriate, IND or IDE documents and a line item research budget. **This must be completed before any funding can be released.** Applicants are strongly urged to complete these at this stage of the application process. Please contact Bridget Adams, OCTRI Regulatory Specialist, for assistance: adamsb@ohsu.edu; 503-494-5077.

For any questions related to the submission process, contact Melissa Mudd at muddm@ohsu.edu

Eligibility:
https://o2.ohsu.edu/proposal-and-award-management/resources/upload/04-00-005-100-Principal-Investigator-Eligibility-6-14-16.pdf

Post-Award Process:

All award recipients will be required to comply with NCATS/NIH processes and requirements. Recipients will also be required to submit progress reports using guidelines that will be provided at a later date.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Note that requests for OCTRI services require the development of a service-specific budget; you will need to submit a [resource request form](#) to the OCTRI Research Navigator Program (octri@ohsu.edu) and submit the OCTRI-generated cost estimate with your application budget.

1) **Proposal Narrative; 3-page limit** (Please adhere to the following outline):

   a) **Background**: <u>Briefly</u> describe the long-term goals and potential of the project, beyond the initial period of funding support. For instance, what is the major opportunity that drives the proposal? How will the project overcome existing barriers, open up new possibilities, lead to innovation, or otherwise merit attention? Highlight any unique combination of background, prior experience and capabilities that are being brought to bear on the project.

   b) **Project Plan:** <u>This is a key section</u>. Describe the work you plan to undertake and its expected outcomes. Make it clear to reviewers that you have devised a well-crafted plan that makes good use of talent, experience and existing resources.

   c) **Plans for Continuation:** <u>This is a key section</u>. Describe how the requested funding and project will prompt the next stage of research success, with the usual object being sustained research support? How does this funding allow the research team to realize impactful long-term goals? Identify specific targets for possible extramural grant applications. For each source, include the agency or organization to which you plan to apply, and planned submission dates.

   d) **Timeline**: Provide a timeline for completion of the proposed work in simple, readable form such as a short paragraph or simple diagram. Awarded funds must be spent by June 30, 2020 – no carryforward is allowed.

2) Budget Guidance

   a) Applicants may request budgets of $5,000 to $20,000 of direct costs; budgets should not include indirect costs.

   b) It is highly unlikely that a project would have a budget of exactly $20,000. Simply asking for the maximum allowable without clear rational will be a disadvantage. Proposals will be critically reviewed from this perspective.

   c) Account for all expenses required to complete the scope of work in the proposal. Provide a brief budget justification for all expenses. Your budget must be appropriate for the proposed work, and budgets that make efficient use of support to achieve the goals of the program are desired.

   d) All cost must meet the OMB guidelines for allowability. Allowable costs can include: Personnel, animal care costs, research assays, supplies, and other expenses, such as research beds, nursing or bionutrition staff, routine laboratory measures, biostatistics and informatics support, and generation of preliminary data. Investigator salary and project-required travel are allowed, but a clear justification of why they are necessary must be provided (i.e., funds must be used to directly support the research). Equipment that is essential for the study, and is not otherwise available, may be requested, but large equipment expenditures are discouraged.

e) Detailed Budget: You may use the PHS 398 budget template available here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html; Form page 4 "Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period".

f) (*ONLY if requesting OCTRI services*) OCTRI Cost Estimate: In order to request OCTRI services you must include a cost estimate, obtained through the Research Navigator, as part of your budget. For a listing of OCTRI services see: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/octri/resources/octri-research-services/index.cfm. The costs of these services must be included in the online application section and the budget justification as a separate line item as well as in the PHS 398 detailed budget. Contact the Research Navigator at 503-418-9790 or octri@ohsu.edu to obtain a cost estimate for OCTRI services.

g) Budget Justification: Include specific requirements regarding the urgency of the need and funding timeline. A budget justification is a brief narrative explanation of each of the components of the budget, which "justifies" the cost in terms of the proposed work. The explanations should focus on how each budget item is required to achieve the aims of the project and how the estimated costs in the budget were calculated. When a detailed budget is submitted, all items in the budget must be justified. Please refer to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html; Form page 4.4 "Budget Instructions".

2) **Biosketch(s)**
   a) Please include biosketches of the PI and any other relevant project personnel in short or long form in a single .pdf document.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprised of a multi-disciplinary committee through a rigorous review, similar to a NIH study section. Applications will be judged primarily on their responsiveness to specific requirements laid out in the application instructions. Additionally, submissions will be scored on their strengths in the following categories:

1. Likelihood of future funding. Will this funding enable the development of compelling new grant applications or industry funding that will sustain the proposed research activity?

2. Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

3. Investigator(s). Are the PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If early-stage investigators, new investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

4. Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

5. Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Is the proposed budget an effective use of funds to reach next milestones? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities, members of both genders, and children justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

6. Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

7. Overall impact. Reflects all scored criteria plus additional criteria regarding the protection and inclusion of human subjects; vertebrate animal care and welfare; biohazards, and criteria specific to this funding opportunity.