



State of New Jersey
COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH
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**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Cancer Research Funding Initiative:
(Cancer Investigator Bridging Grant Awards)**

RFA Available: October 6, 2008

Administered by: New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

Application Receipt Dates: November 5, 2008, April 6, 2009

Start Date: February 5, 2009, June 5, 2009

PURPOSE:

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services invites grant applications to be considered in a single competition to provide interim support for promising cancer-related investigator-initiated research projects that have been highly rated in competitive merit review of major cancer funding organizations including the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the American Cancer Society (ACS) but were not funded due to budgetary constraints.

In addition, all applications should address at least one or more of the following State-level program goals:

- ◆ Increasing the number of new investigators, new grants and new products in New Jersey.
- ◆ Increasing national research dollars brought into New Jersey.
- ◆ Supporting state capacity to rapidly translate discovery to clinical care.
- ◆ Expanding strategically important shared resources.

TYPE OF RFA:

This is an open and competitive grant program, based on a National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Cancer Society or United States Department of Defense scientific peer review ratings, that is available to all non-profit research institutions, cancer centers, or scientific agencies in New Jersey who meet the minimum eligibility requirements described in that section below.

BACKGROUND:

The New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR), whose members are appointed by the Governor, was established on January 17, 1983, with the passage of the "Cancer Research Act" by the New Jersey State Legislature. The NJCCR promotes significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer and serves as a

resource to providers and consumers of cancer services. By means of this promotion and funding, the NJCCR expects to establish the foundations for the kind of cancer research that will place New Jersey at the cutting edge in the fight against cancer. It also administers the New Jersey Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Funds that are fueled by donations given through check-off boxes on the New Jersey State Income Tax forms as well as proceeds from the specialty conquer cancer license plate available from the New Jersey Motor Vehicles Commission. In addition, the NJCCR may accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, government agencies and other organizations.

The Governor's FY 2009 State Budget included an additional \$17 million for cancer research, treatment and prevention as a line item under the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Grants – In – Aid section. The NJCCR in collaboration with the DHSS is administering a portion of these funds for cancer research grants, fellowships and research development awards.

RESEARCH SCOPE:

The intent of this grant mechanism is to provide interim support for promising cancer-related investigator-initiated research projects that have been highly rated by national panels of peer reviewers in recent federal competitions but were not funded due to budgetary constraints. Allowable national competitions include those conducted by the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs for Breast Cancer Research or Prostate Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

Proposals received under this announcement will be reviewed for technical compliance and cancer relevancy by a peer review panel consisting of established researchers from outside the state, or New Jersey scientists who are employed by a for profit pharmaceutical/biotechnology company. Applications will be ranked according to priority rating and Initial Review Group or Scientific Review Group percentiles and awards will be made based upon this ranking from highest to lowest. Certified documentation from national funding agencies should include cover, abstract and budget pages from original applications, a summary review including priority rating and funding percentile must be submitted as part of the application. The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research shall be responsible for convening this panel and assuring that it functions in a fair and equitable manner in all of its deliberations and decisions. The NJCCR reserves the right to consider other contributing factors such as programmatic, geographic and relevancy factors in making decisions among applications that have comparable scientific merit based upon review panel recommendations.

APPLICATION FORMAT:

Application forms for this RFA and NJCCR Policies and Guidelines Governing Cancer Investigator Bridging Grant Awards may be obtained by logging onto our website www.njccr.com or emailing njccr@doh.state.nj.us or writing to the address listed below:

**Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research
3635 Quakerbridge Road
PO Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369**

DEADLINES

Hard Copy and E-mailed Copy	Due Date:	Activation Date:
Application	November 5, 2008	February 5, 2009
Application	April 6, 2009	June 5, 2009

The original application, 5 hard copies and an e-mailed copy of the application must be received in the NJCCR Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on the application due date of November 5, 2008 or April 6, 2009. Late applications will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY:

New Jersey researchers who have applied to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), American Cancer Society (ACS) or Department of Defense (DOD) for cancer grants and received scores that fall within the 25% percentile of applicants for their assigned Initial Review Group or Scientific Review Group section as demonstrated by summary evaluation from the participating institutions, and have less than \$350,000 in other grant support, may apply for a short term bridging grant designed to allow the investigator to strengthen proposals for resubmission within 12 months of completion. Applicants must have submitted a multi-year investigator-initiated research application to the agencies above and have received a peer review summary statement dated on or after January 1, 2008 indicating high scientific merit. K type career development grants are not eligible. For purposes of this competition, "high scientific merit" is a percentile ranking of 25th or better. Competing renewals will be favored under this program

Principal Investigators must be full time tenured faculty at non-profit New Jersey scientific organizations, academic institutions, cancer research centers, and approved hospitals holding American College of Surgeon's NCI-designated, Teaching Hospital Accreditation, headquartered and operating in New Jersey, that actively engage in trans-disciplinary research to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality are eligible for this program. Applicant's who are being supported by institutional funds for bridging purposes are not eligible for this award. Other eligibility standards include:

- Adequate institutional support
 - Core/shared facilities and equipment
 - Administrative and supportive staff
 - Fiscal oversight

- Core Research Capacity
 - Specialized research space
 - Institutional Review Boards
 - Scientific Monitoring
 - Oversight
 - Database and Informatics
- Access to cancer populations
 - Patients
 - Tissues
 - Cell lines
- Supportive Research Environment
 - Multidisciplinary collaborations
 - Mentoring and training capacity
 - other institutional support (IT, meeting space etc)
- Commission on Cancer Accreditation (required for hospitals and clinical programs only)

Non-profit organizations are defined as any college/university or an organization that is owned and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes, and for which no part of the net earnings benefits any private shareholder or individual.

TYPE OF FUNDING:

Funds of up to 50% of original direct cost budget plus NJDHSS established indirect cost rates (11.4%) will be considered up to a maximum of \$150,000. Salary support including fringe benefits is limited to 20% of institutional salary for principal and co-investigators.

Administrative and general operational costs must be specifically and directly related to the project, necessary for the project’s completion, and adequately justified. Accordingly, support for the following will not be allowed in the application:

- Management & administrative salaries
- Secretarial, office expenses and telephone services
- Clinical care or treatment services not directly related to the project or shared resource
- General IT and computer services not related to the project
- Facility leasing or rentals unless directly related to the shared resource, equipment or project
- Library services including the purchasing and binding of books and periodicals
- Furniture for laboratories and office equipment and supplies
- Dues for membership and registration fees in scientific societies or at professional meetings
- Recruitment and relocation expenses
- Facility construction, building maintenance or major alterations

Upon acceptance of a grant award, the applicant’s organization assumes legal and financial responsibility for awarded funds and the conduct of supported activities. It is the responsibility

of the applicant's institution and principal investigator to assure the accuracy and validity of all fiscal scientific and administrative information pertaining to the awarded grant.

Bridge Grant awardees will be required to resubmit their proposal to national funding agencies prior to December 31, 2009 for awards made on February 5, 2009 and April 30, 2010 for awards made on June 5, 2009.

SCIENTIFIC AND BUDGETARY OVERLAPS:

The NJCCR does not fund studies that have scientific and/or budgetary overlap with grants supported by other agencies. Applicants may not apply for NJCCR Bridging Grants if they have or had within the last 12 months institutional bridging support. Accurate and complete information on actively funded, pending and planned proposals for each professional must be provided on the application form entitled "Other Support." Should funding be accepted from another agency, it is the responsibility of the principal investigator to notify the NJCCR immediately. The NJCCR is in communication with other funding agencies and reserves the right to investigate any possible overlaps.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Funding Authorization Number 46.99448.

Terms and conditions for Administration of Health Services Grant (copy available from the NJCCR office upon request).

Applicable Cost Principles - State and Local Governments, Non-Profit Agencies, Hospitals and Educational Institutions - (copy available from the NJCCR office upon request).