



State of New Jersey
COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH
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**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Cancer Research Funding Initiative:
Special Research Grant Awards Available: New Jersey Cancer Research Development
Awards (NJCRDA)**

RFA Available: October 20, 2008

Administered by: New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

Application Receipt Date: December 1, 2008

Start Date: April 15, 2009

PURPOSE:

The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, in collaboration with the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, seeks to support and promote high impact and innovative cancer research that is directed towards strengthening the New Jersey cancer research infrastructure strategically through institutional support aimed at fostering interactions between basic laboratory, clinical, and population scientists; expanding access for investigators to shared services and technologies that are necessary to their research efforts; and other scientific infrastructure or program development projects with significant potential to advance cancer research in New Jersey.

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) system of scientific review, that is available to all non-profit research institutions, cancer centers, hospitals, or scientific agencies in New Jersey who meet the minimum eligibility requirements described in that section below.

BACKGROUND:

The FY 2009 New Jersey State Budget appropriates \$17 million for competitive grants to be administered by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) for cancer research, treatment and prevention.

After careful consultation, the NJDHSS and NJCCR agreed that \$10 million of the \$17 million would be awarded for open and competitive cancer research grants, managed by the NJCCR. The NJCCR has a proven track record in the administration of competitive cancer research grants and fellowships based upon a National Institutes of Health (NIH) system of scientific merit review. As a scientific agency, however, the NJCCR is not equipped to administer a program involving clinical and preventive cancer services. The Family Services Division of NJDHSS supports all of the cancer clinical and prevention services for the Department and has stronger expertise in treatment and prevention grants. It will administer a total of \$7 million for open and competitive grants for cancer treatment and prevention.

Successful cancer research depends upon the availability of shared resources, the most modern technology and multidisciplinary research teams. Such resources have high costs but represent fundamental infrastructure needs that are critical to successful research. This RFA seeks to provide funding to support these strategically important resources where there is a demonstrated need, a potential for significant scientific advancement, and an opportunity to develop new and innovative technologies critical to cancer research in New Jersey.

RESEARCH SCOPE:

This award is designed to strengthen New Jersey cancer research infrastructure strategically through the support of shared resources, state of the art equipment or instrumentation upgrades and newly created multidisciplinary research networks with high potential for federal funding opportunities. As such, the focus of this program is the “seeding and nurturing” of new and promising initiatives that are in their formative or early stages of development. Support for established and ongoing research programs or projects are not a priority.

Possible areas of support, might include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Shared resources that support promising new technologies, tissue or cell repositories, bio- or public health informatics, animal models, biologic assays, clinical or health delivery data systems or other shared resources that would be utilized by a minimum of 3 federally funded researchers and 3 junior scientists, while contributing to at least one or more of the State research goals listed above.
- ◆ “State of the art” technology or instrumentation that would modernize existing facilities or support a new scientific focus, where research capacity would be substantially enhanced from this investment and contribute to funding goals listed above.

- ◆ Multidisciplinary research networks with potential for making New Jersey more competitive for certain federal funding opportunities (SPORES, Clinical Networks, Community Based Research Partnerships or Specialized Centers of Excellence).

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

Proposals received under this announcement will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit 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. 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.

In addition, the following criteria will be used to evaluate all proposals:

1. The significance of the proposed resource or program to institutional scientific needs and objectives as well as the goals of this funding mechanism.
2. Program use and facilities management.
3. Impact on research capacity or the value added to institutional research capability by the proposed resource or program.
4. The quality of the core research team including at least 3 members with demonstrated competitive funding from NIH, ACS, DOD or other approved entity.
5. The uniqueness or innovativeness that the resource or program brings to the institution.
6. The reasonableness of the conceptual framework and integration design behind the resource or program.
7. A written plan and rationale for resource sharing, equipment or program development that includes anticipated efficiencies and measurable outcomes.
8. Effect of resource on stimulating scientific interactions and future directions of the institution.
9. The relevancy of the resource, equipment or program to cancer and cancer research including Healthy New Jersey 2010 and the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Plan (<http://nj.gov/health/ccp/index.shtml>).
10. Documentation of matching funds.

Applicants are reminded that the NJCCR approved the participation of patient consumers as part of the NJCCR review process. Advocates will help evaluate the appropriateness of proposals to the requirements of this RFA. The Commissioners, based upon the decisions of the review panel, will make funding recommendations on awards.

APPLICATION FORMAT:

Application forms for this RFA and NJCCR Policies and Guidelines Governing New Jersey Cancer Research Development 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:
Letter of Intent	November 17, 2008	
Application	December 1, 2008	April 15, 2009

Prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent no later than November 17, 2008 that includes a descriptive title, the name, address, phone number and email address of the Principal Investigator, the identities of other key investigators, a 1 to 2 page description of the project, its purpose, how it will be used and why it is needed.

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 December 1, 2008. Late applications will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY:

All non-profit New Jersey scientific organizations, academic institutions, cancer research centers, and approved hospitals holding American College of Surgeon's NCI-designated, or 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. In addition, applicants must demonstrate strong organizational and research administrative capabilities, institutional commitment to cancer research, and trans-disciplinary, cancer-focused science. 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.

Institutions must appoint a principal investigator to be the individual designated by the applicant institution to direct the project that is supported by the grant. The Principal Investigator/Project Director is responsible and accountable to applicant institution officials for the proper conduct of the project.

Applicants who are willing to open the use of shared resources to a larger number of users and other partnering New Jersey institutions will be given priority to funding.

TYPE OF FUNDING:

Under this program, a total of \$6 million is available for 6 to 8 awards of no more than \$1 million in total costs. These monies may be used for start up projects, program development, or infrastructure expansion, but general operational, new construction, renovation expenses for existing laboratories or shared resources that are already being supported by the institution or another outside agency will not be allowed. Funds requested must be based on the requirements of the project and fully justified.

While there is no restriction on the number of applications submitted by an institution or agency, the NJCCR, in partnership with the DHSS, 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.

A matching requirement of 20% of total costs is required by the applicant institution for this program. Gifts, donations, income derived from outside programs, federal grant dollar awarded for the same purpose, and in kind contributions that are given outside the normal scope of business of the applicant or its employees may count towards the matching requirement. Other state appropriated funds, no matter what source, do not count towards the match.

Although grant awards are only for one year, competing renewal applications may be allowed for up to an additional two years under this program. However, significant justification and a strong performance review will be required. This funding mechanism is designed to support developmental projects and resources that must be self sustaining within a 2-3 year period. Applicants will be expected to provide a detailed plan discussing strategies to assure future independent support or new funding streams in their proposals.

Salary support including fringe benefits is limited to 20% of institutional salary for principal and co-investigators. Indirect costs may not exceed the DHSS approved level of 11.4%. Equipment expenses may not be applied to indirect costs. 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

SCIENTIFIC AND BUDGETARY OVERLAPS:

The NJCCR does not fund studies that have scientific or budgetary overlap with grants supported by other agencies. Accurate and complete information on actively funded, pending and planned proposals for each professional must be provided on the application form entitled "Other Support."

Please indicate the percent of time and effort dedicated to each activity. It is important to note that the sum of all the percentages must not exceed 100 percent. When applicable, a letter assuring that duplicate funding sources will not be accepted by the principal investigator must be included in the proposal. 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.

HEALTHY NEW JERSEY 2010:

The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services and the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research are committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives in Healthy New Jersey 2010. In addition, the DHSS has just released its updated New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Plan that includes a number of goals and objectives aimed at reducing cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality. This RFA is related to the goals and objectives established in these documents and applicants should address at least one major priority area as part of their application (See Comprehensive Cancer Plan at www.state.nj.us/cancer/plan).