



**State of New Jersey**  
**COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH**  
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JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

HEATHER HOWARD, J.D.  
*Commissioner*

**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Cancer Research Funding Initiative:  
(NJ Cancer Research Seed Grant Awards)**

RFA Available: October 6, 2008

Administered by: New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

Application Receipt Dates: November 14, 2008

Start Date: April 1, 2009

**PURPOSE:**

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services will award seed grants seeking to support new investigators interested in becoming established in New Jersey; assist established scientists looking for new directions in cancer research; and encourage promising, novel translational, studies by basic, epidemiological and clinical investigators.

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 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 support new investigators seeking to become established in New Jersey; assist established scientists looking for new directions in cancer research; and encourage promising translational studies by basic, epidemiologic and clinical investigators.

Studies may focus on the genetic, biochemical, viral, microbiological, environmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic and psychosocial aspects of cancer prevention, causes, development, treatment and palliation. Such research may include studies that relate to fundamental issues of cancer, but these must use biologic systems, tissues, cells, human subjects or other materials that have a direct relationship to cancer.

### **REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:**

All proposals are reviewed by a panel of scientific experts who are appointed by the NJCCR. The panel evaluates the scientific merit and feasibility of each proposal. In addition, a relevancy rating related to the research scope described above will be included as part of the evaluation process for all applications.

Cancer advocates/patient consumers are included as members of all NJCCR review panels. It is expected that the advocate's role would be to help evaluate the relevancy of applications to cancer. Therefore, serious consideration should be given to the lay abstract and relevancy section of proposals. The reviews and recommendations of the scientific panel are provided to the Commissioners who make the final decision on all awards. 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 Research Awards may be obtained by logging onto our website [www.njccr.com](http://www.njccr.com) or emailing [njccr@doh.state.nj.us](mailto: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**

<b>Hard Copy and E-mailed Copy</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Activation Date:</b>
<b>Grants (General, Breast, Prostate)</b>	<b>November 14, 2008</b>	<b>April 1, 2009</b>

*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 14, 2008. Late applications will not be accepted.*

**ELIGIBILITY:**

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. Research Associates, Adjunct Assistant Professors and other non-permanent staff are not eligible to apply. Established investigators are those who have a funded track record in their area of expertise. Changes in direction must be substantial and justification provided within applications. Translational studies should be trans-disciplinary, novel and have the potential to translate rapidly to new products, innovative treatments or improved cancer prevention and control. These research projects should be at a start up phase and have not been previously funded by major national organizations.

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:**

Grant awards may be made for a maximum of \$150,000 per year in direct and indirect costs. Indirect costs are allowed to the institution for up to 11.4 percent of direct costs. The NJCCR does not fund studies that overlap with projects funded by other agencies. A request for funds to expand an ongoing project will be considered if the enlarged work has separate and identifiable boundaries.

Awards should be accepted by the activation date. No investigator may carry more than two NJCCR grants or fellowships at any given time.

- **Budget:** NJCCR maximum grant levels are \$150,000 in direct and indirect costs per annum for up to two years. The indirect cost rates may only be 11.4 % of direct costs excluding equipment purchases. Salary support for the principal investigator or co-investigators are permitted up to 20% of their total institutional earnings. Major equipment purchases exceeding \$10,000 must be fully justified.
- **Duration:** Grants may be awarded for up to two years. Upon completion of the grant period, any residual, unexpended funds must be returned to the NJCCR within 60 days of termination date.
- **Extension with No Additional Funding:** Grants may be extended without additional funds for up to one year with appropriate justification and upon written request of the principal investigator and approval by the NJCCR. Request must be made 30 days prior to the termination date. Please note that mini-grant awards of \$25,000 or less may not be extended.
- **Application For Renewal:** Grant renewals are made only under special circumstances and only for one additional year. Applications for renewal may be requested from the Executive Director. Deadlines for receipt of renewals are identified to the deadlines for receipt of new applications.

**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."

The percent of time and effort dedicated to each activity must be indicated. 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.

**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).