

## Population Health RFA Information Session Question and Answers

Q: Could a health care system like GHS be considered an “industry partner”?

A: Yes. The interpretation of industry partner encompasses the health care system.

Q: What is the maximum award for this grant?

A: The maximum award under this RFA is \$100,000, inclusive of a 20% indirect rate.

Q: Can you please clarify as to “whom” the 20% salary limit applies? Is it just for faculty or does it apply across all of the budget?

A: The SACT voted to remove the salary limits for the Population Health Sub-program on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The current RFA (<http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/enable-commercialization/sact-grants>) reflects this change.

Q: In the review criteria there is a fair amount of emphasis on the quantitative research objectives. If there is a collaboration and the research is not that quantitative, but is more about collaborating and developing infrastructure for collaboration, how important is it that we include quantitative objectives?

A: We are trying to establish how we are going to build these centers across academic institutions, but keep in mind that clear-cut milestones will be required. How the metrics are framed around those milestones will be important. A possible option might be to create criteria based on the number of participants at either the investigator level or institutional level, or potential outreach as well.

Q: Are any scientific evaluations of the milestones expected in the proposal?

A: Yes. The technical reviewers will receive the entire application and will be assessing them from a technical perspective with regards to the proposed milestones.

Q: Does this solicitation fund the efficacy of innovative types of technologies to improve patient outcomes?

A: Absolutely, that is one of the key areas we are trying to address. Applications should include the development or deployment of existing technology to have an impact on health outcomes.

Q: The RFA encourages two types of collaboration—one between Constituent Institutions and the other between Constituent Institutions and industry partners. If we already have an existing partnership with industry, can we use that existing partnership, or do we need to establish a new partnership?

A: As long as you are engaging with industry, your submission will meet the intent of the RFA. The preference is for industry partners to be located within the state of South Carolina. Applications with an industry partner should include a letter of support from the industry partner.

Q: Maximum award is \$100,000 including \$20K indirect...how many years can be funded?

A: The performance period for this award is a maximum of 1 year.

Q: Will a collaboration with a relatively new start-up as opposed to a relationship with a larger, more established partner be detrimental to the proposal?

A: No. SCRA does not differentiate between relationships with start-up companies or more established companies. One of SCRA's most important missions is supporting entrepreneurial endeavors, so we treat your relationship with a startup the same way we might if you were partnering with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. However, working with a start-up could prove more challenging when you address the follow-on funding portion of the application.

Q: Can we fund students in lieu of faculty? What percentage are we allowed to use for graduate student funding?

A: Yes, you may fund students and post-doctoral researchers. There is no longer a salary cap for the Population Health Sub-program under the RFA.

Q: How much weight will the commitment of matching be taken into account in the review?

A: We do not have a weight attributed to each of these components. The reviewers will assess the application pool in totality, so matching would be beneficial, but not mandatory. It could, however, be used as a tie-breaker.

Q: Would student stipend be considered a salary?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any consideration or weight on intellectual property for this RFA?

A: Yes, that comes in through the impact on the state's innovation economy. The innovation economy is based on job creation, start-up creation and intellectual property. While intellectual property is not the explicit focus of the application, it is beneficial to include.

Q: Is the intellectual property of the original inventors still retained to participate or be funded by the grant?

A: Yes. The intellectual property would be subject to the intellectual property policy of the applicant's institution. SCRA does not make any claims to intellectual property.

Q: Will the slides be made available after the session?

A: Yes, the slides have been sent to all who registered for this information session and the recording of this session is posted on-line at <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/enable-commercialization/sact-grants>

Q: If we have more than one product to develop under the Collaboration Center, should we provide an evaluation on each product besides on the Center as a whole?

A: If you can submit two products under the \$100K cap you may do that. There may be some strategic decisions to make as to whether or not you want to put those together into one submission or split them into two separate submissions. You are allowed to submit more than one product in the same application

Q: How many Centers will be funded?

A: We are not looking to establish multiple centers in Technology-enabled Population Health. There will be just one center for the state.