SCRA

SCRA-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION TEAM (SACT)
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NEW INFORMATION:

Under Bio-Medical Sciences, the scope as outlined in the original presentation was incomplete. The bullet *"Subspecialties"* was omitted from slide 10 (see revised slide below). The recording of the Information Session posted on the website includes the corrected slide.

A. **MEDICAL DEVICES**
   - **Diagnostics** (in vitro/molecular, biosensors, imaging)
   - **Digital Health and Analytics** (device software function, health IT, medical device data systems, medical device interoperability, software as a medical device (SaMD), telemedicine, wireless medical devices)
   - **Subspecialties** Cardiovascular, Chronic Disease Management (metabolic diseases, respiratory diseases), Neurology/Brain Injury, Orthopedics, Pain Management, Respiratory, Women's Health

B. **REGENERATIVE MEDICINE**
   - **Bioprinting/Production** (cells, tissues, organs, substrates for all)

C. **STATE-WIDE BIOREPOSITORY**
   - **State-wide Biorepository** that will collect appropriately consented patient samples that can be used for research purposes, including generating data for future funding proposals.

QUESTION: What are the main objectives of the grant funding?

ANSWER: We are looking for applications from multi-institutional, collaborative teams. Proposals must advance commercially relevant research. They may also develop state-wide research infrastructure or acquire equipment that will be used by multiple institutions in the state.

The ideal scope which should be based on the complementary or overlapping interests and objectives of academia and industry where the relationship provides a promising opportunity for:
1. multi-institutional collaboration among higher ed in the state to really maximize impact
2. public/private partnerships that leverage interests, assets, and expertise in a manner that fosters sustainable growth for the state;
3. we are looking for research that is differentiated at the national or regional level; and
4. those innovations that can have a defensible position in the marketplace.

QUESTION: How many institutions must collaborate to fulfill grant eligibility?

ANSWER: Each application requires collaboration with a minimum of two degree-conferring, public institutions of higher education in SC, including the Lead Applicant. Collaborations can be between any combination of Research Institutions, Comprehensive Teaching Institutions, and TCs. Additional collaborations with academia and industry are encouraged and will result in more points awarded during the review process.

QUESTION: What is the difference between the solicitation for RU's and the one for CTU/TCs?

ANSWER: They are very similar. Over 90% of the content in each solicitation is the same. The two main differences are funding amounts and with which institutions you can collaborate to increase those funding amounts.

QUESTION: Is there a maximum number of applications allowed per institution?

ANSWER: Each institution may submit a maximum of two applications as a Lead Applicant. An institution may be listed as a collaborator on additional submissions.

QUESTION: How will the two applications per institution be selected out of all possible submissions?

ANSWER: Each institution is responsible for the technical review and prioritization of research proposals in order to select two that the institution would like to put forward as Pre-Applications. This prioritization needs to be based on the Review Criteria outlined in the solicitation.

For Research Institutions, pre-application must be submitted by the Office of the Vice President/Vice Provost of Research. If your institution does not have a Vice President of Research, which is the case for CTUs and TCs, these forms should be submitted by the most Senior Academic Officer, the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

QUESTION: What happens if two institutions submit the same research proposal?

ANSWER: Duplicate Research Proposals will not be advanced. If two or more Pre-Application Forms are submitted that propose the same research and collaborations, both forms will be returned with the request that the institutions identify a single Lead Applicant for resubmission.

For example, if MUSC and College of Charleston were collaborating on a research project and each used one of their two Pre-Applications to put forward the same project, they would be rejected during review. Both Pre-Applications would be returned with a request to re-submit with a single Lead Applicant.

QUESTION: Why is there a Pre-Application and a Full-Application? What is the difference between the two?

ANSWER: The Pre-Application consists of a 3-page fillable PDF form. It can be accessed on our website. (Refer to the webinar for a walk-through of the Pre-Application form.) The deadline for institutions to submit their Pre-Applications to SCRA is September 15th.

By September 30th, SCRA will review all Pre-Applications to ensure compliance, then send invitations to submit Full Applications with a deadline of December 15th. This window of three months provides time to secure the recommended cost-share and to obtain Letters of Commitment that are required with the Full Application.

Instructions for the Full Application are not provided in the solicitation or available on our website because they are invitation-only. However, the solicitation does show the sections to be included in the Full Application, and these are largely the same as previous SACT grants.

QUESTION: A Research University can apply with a CTU, correct?

ANSWER: That is correct. A Research University may apply with a CTU, a TC, or another RU. Please note, however, that only a collaboration with another RU would increase the funding amount.

QUESTION: A Technical College can apply with either a CTU or an RU or another TC, correct?

ANSWER: Correct again. Similar to the previous question, a Technical College may apply with any other type of institution. Note that only a collaboration with another TC or a CTU would increase the funding amount.

QUESTION: So, an application from UofSC with Clemson & MTC is eligible for an award up to $1.2m?

ANSWER: Correct. UofSC and Clemson are both RU collaborators, so the funding increases to the amount allowed for two eligible applicants (see chart below).

No. of Eligible Applicants per Proposal	RU Solicitation		CTU/TC Solicitation	
	Max. Award Amount	Avg. Annual Tranche	Max. Award Amount	Avg. Annual Tranche
One	$600,000	$200,000	$300,000	$100,000
Two	$1,200,000	$400,000	$600,000	$200,000
Three or more	$1,800,000	$600,000	$900,000	$300,000
Total Funds Available	$1,800,000		$900,000	
Minimum Award	$600,000		$300,000	

QUESTION: Is a startup company eligible for this grant?

ANSWER: No, SACT funds are dedicated to academic research. However, SCRA has multiple funding opportunities for startup companies. Visit our website for more information at https://www.scra.org/funding/

QUESTION: Can a Lead Applicant come from industry?

ANSWER: No. The Lead Applicant must be a South Carolina public institution of higher education. Collaborations with industry are welcome and encouraged.

QUESTION: Is there any incentive for the academic lead to partner with a startup or other industry partner?

ANSWER: Yes. Priority will be given to those applications that engage industry partners to address key business challenges and opportunities. Points will be awarded for significant translational relevance, demonstrated commitment from industry with matching funds, and involvement with for-profit industry partners.

QUESTION: If awarded, can the grant be used to support multiple students and/or postdocs?

ANSWER: Yes, these are allowable expenses.