Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust Awards Programs
Catalyst Award

Frequently Asked Questions *(updated July 2020)* Grant Cycle 2020

General Questions

What is the goal of the Falk Trust Catalyst Award?
The Catalyst Research Award Program provides one year of seed funding to support high-risk, high-reward projects that address critical scientific and therapeutic roadblocks. The program is designed to enable planning and development of projects, teams, tools, techniques and management infrastructure necessary to successfully compete for a two-year award through the Transformational Research Award Program.

The Falk Trust is interested in transformational efforts to cure disease and reduce suffering. Therefore, proposals that seek to develop proof-of-concept for future technology transfer, either in treatment or diagnosis, will be most competitive. Catalyst Award proposals that establish milestones that effectively test the clinical utility of science-based innovation, and that may realistically result in products or ideas that will be available for technology transfer by the end of the three-year Catalyst/Transformational awards cycle, are most likely to gather positive reviews. The reviewers will include not only scientists but also individuals with experience in technology transfer and biotech. Translational research, as described by NIH, covers a lot of ground from basic science to health services research. For those investigators who have previous experience with NIH awards, this is most similar to the small business innovation research award program, rather than an R01 mechanism.

How do I apply?
Please go to https://hria.org/tmf/FalkCAP and download the Guidelines and Instructions.

Is there a limit on how many applications may be submitted from one institution?
Select institutions may internally nominate up to two applicants for submission to the Program.

Must the applicant be nominated by their institution?
Yes.

Is there a limit on how many applications in one cycle may be submitted from one applicant?
Yes, one application per Principal Investigator (PI).

I am based at an institution outside of the United States. Am I eligible?
Applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens, but they must hold a faculty appointment at an invited non-profit, academic, medical, or research institution in the United States.

May I apply with a Co-Principal Investigator and/or a Co-Investigator?
Yes. However, one principal investigator (Applicant) must be identified as the lead PI of the award. This PI will be responsible for all grant reporting and fiscal management. Co-Investigators are allowed, although there is only one PI (the Applicant).

May a PI on one grant also be part of another grant submission?
Yes. A PI on one grant may be listed as personnel on someone else's grant but not in a major role such as Co-PI. It is acceptable to have a role as collaborator or other personnel within the same cycle.

May a PI on one grant also be Co-PI on another grant?
No, only one application as PI or Co-PI is permitted per cycle.

I am Adjunct Faculty at my institution. May I apply?
No. The program only accepts applications from full-time independent faculty members.

If I am offered the Award but cannot accept it, may it be transferred to a co-investigator or other individual significantly involved in the project?
No. The grant can only be awarded to the Applicant who originally submitted the grant application.

If I apply and do not receive an Award, may I apply in future years?
Yes. You may apply again if your institution is invited to apply in future years and your proposal is nominated.

Proposal Application

May I submit a project that involves human subjects?
Although clinical trials are outside the scope of this program, basic research using human specimens would be eligible.

Are there formatting rules for the Research Proposal?
Yes – please refer to the Guidelines for specific instructions.

Should the references be placed after the Research Proposal?
Yes, please add any references cited after the research proposal. The bibliography of references related to the project are excluded from the maximum of 9 pages.

Are the section headings mentioned in the Research Proposal portion required or may other headings be included?
Please prepare your proposal using the headings in the Guidelines.

Do you have a Biosketch form I should use?
Applicants should use the current NIH Biosketch format.

I have a Co-Investigator. Should their Biosketch be included in the Attachment?
Yes – please include Biosketch(es) for any co-investigators.

How should the Co-Investigators be reflected in the proposal?
In addition to the Co-Investigators' Biosketch(es) in the PDF upload, all of the key personnel should be listed with their roles in the summary of the research plan. The information may also be included in the optional "management plan" page at the end of the proposal.

Where do I find the Application Face Sheet?
The Face Sheet is a downloadable Word document found at: https://hria.org/tmf/FalkCAP.

May I use the NIH Current and Pending Support Form?
For each source of funding, please transfer the information from the NIH form to the Other Support Form provided with the application. Please including current and pending support for the Lead PI and any Co-PIs (but not Co-Investigators)

Is the project budget subject to the NIH salary cap requirements?
Salaries must be in proportion to the percent effort on the research project; however, percent effort may exceed the percent of total salary support requested from the Program. Institutions may elect to use the NIH salary cap in the project budget, but it is not required.

Is **tuition for graduate students is an allowable expense under this program?**
Tuition for graduate students is an allowable expense. This expense should be listed in the Other Expenses category and on the Budget Justification tab of the Budget Template Form.

What is the difference between the Authorized Institutional Representative and the Institutional Officer to Receive Funds?
Depending on the institution, the Office of Sponsored Programs (or similar grants department) will sign off on the application to ensure that you and the Institution have met the eligibility requirements. The Institutional Officer to Receive Funds is typically within the finance or accounting office. Please check with your institution to determine who should certify the application.

Online Application

Where do I find my Institution's Tax ID?
Please contact your Office of Sponsored Programs for this number.

How do I access the Online Application?

Use this link to begin a NEW application:
https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35089

I have started and saved an Online Application. However, when I try to log-in, I cannot find my previous application. Do I need to start a new one?
No – there is a separate log-in link for applicants who have already started and saved an application. Please be sure to click the link titled, "Return to a Saved Online Application" to access your previous form.

Return to a SAVED application:
https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM

What will be asked in the Online Application?

- ☐ Your Institution's Tax ID number, an Eligibility Quiz, followed by Contact Information, Educational Background, Institutional information, Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary, Non-technical Summary and Overview, Experimental Systems, Description of Relevance, and Applicant's initials to certify the accuracy of submitted information

Contact

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