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

Frequently Asked Questions *(updated May 2021)*   **Grant Cycle 2021**

General Questions

What is the goal of the Falk Trust Catalyst Award?
The Catalyst Research Award Program provides one to two years 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 to three-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 Catalyst/Transformational awards cycle, are most likely to gather positive reviews. The reviewers include professionals with translational expertise such as academic researchers, venture capital investors, and biotech executives. 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 lead 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) or multi-PI.

I am based at an institution outside of the United States. Am I eligible?
Lead 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, although we no longer use these terms. One principal investigator (Applicant) must be identified as the lead PI of the award. The administrative PI will be responsible for all grant reporting and fiscal management. For other key personnel, please describe their roles using the terminology given in the Guidelines (multi-PI and collaborator), and do not use terms such as Co-PI and Co-I as these are not recognized by this program.

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 multi-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 multi-PI on another grant?
No, only one application as PI or multi-PI is permitted per cycle.

I am Adjunct Faculty at my institution. May I apply as a lead applicant?
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 collaborator or other individual significantly involved in the project?
No. The grant can only be awarded to the PI or multi-PIs 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 multi-PI. Should their Biosketch be included in the Attachment?

Yes – please include Biosketch(es) for any multi-PIs.

How should the multi-PIs be reflected in the proposal?
In addition to the list of key personnel on the application cover page and the multi-PIs' Biosketch(es) in the PDF upload, all of the key personnel should be listed with their roles in the "Investigative team" section of the research proposal. The information may also be included in the optional "management plan" page at the end of the proposal.

Where do I find the Application Form templates?
The Application form templates are downloadable documents 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 multi-PIs, and for any collaborators who are Key Personnel and have funding related to the proposed project.

Is the project budget subject to the NIH salary cap requirements?
Yes. The compensation for individuals funded by Falk awards cannot exceed the NIH salary cap. For individuals whose institutional salary exceeds the applicable rate, the amount of salary charged to the Falk award must be limited to their percent effort multiplied by the salary cap rate. 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. If the requested salary for any personnel listed on the proposal exceeds the NIH salary cap the application will not be processed.

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 the statements contained in the application are true and complete, that the terms of the award are understood, and 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, Key Personnel, Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary, Non-technical Summary and Overview, Experimental Systems, Translational Stage, Description of Transformational Potential, Applicant's initials to certify the accuracy of submitted information, Institutional Certification of eligibility, acceptance of Terms of Award, and accuracy of submitted information.

Contact

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