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

Frequently Asked Questions *(updated February 2023)* Grant Cycle 2023

General Questions

What is the goal of the Falk Trust Transformational Award?
Following a successful Catalyst Award, the Transformational Award is designed to support translational research projects that address critical scientific and therapeutic roadblocks. The Transformational Award provides a bridge to move an exciting health care innovation to the next step in commercial development.

What types of proposals will be most competitive?
The Falk Trust is interested in transformational efforts to cure disease and reduce suffering. Therefore, proposals that seek to move a basic science insight toward a solution, technique, or tool that can be transferred to clinical practice *in the near term* will be most competitive. Proposals 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 proposed benchmarks and milestones outlined in the Catalyst Award proposal must have been successfully achieved. Completion of the Catalyst project on time and on budget is considered favorably. The reviewers include professionals with translational expertise such as academic researchers, venture capital investors, and biotech executives. For those investigators who have previous experience with NIH awards, this is more similar to the small business innovation research award program than to an R01 mechanism.

My Transformational Award proposal was declined for funding in the last cycle. May I apply again in this cycle?
A Catalyst Award project may only be submitted once to the Falk Medical Research Trust for Transformational Award consideration. A new Catalyst proposal may be submitted in a future cycle if you are selected by your institution to submit.

What is the timeline for applying to the Transformational Award Program after receiving a Catalyst Award?
Catalyst Awardees must apply in the Transformational grant cycle immediately following the award completion date. (This can be no later than 12 months following the award completion and in almost all cases is sooner.) If a no-cost extension has been requested, the Catalyst Awardee may apply for a Transformational Award no later than the grant cycle immediately following the completion date of the no-cost extension. If a no-cost extension is needed, it is the Awardee's responsibility to apply for the no-cost extension 30-90 days before the original award completion date. To maintain momentum, Catalyst Awardees who have hit their Catalyst milestones and benchmarks earlier than the official end date are welcome and encouraged to apply for a Transformational grant in an earlier cycle, even if this cycle overlaps with their Catalyst award period. Catalyst awardees may only apply for a Transformational Award once.

How do I apply?
Please go to https://hria.org/tmf/FalkTAP and download the Guidelines and Instructions. To start a new application, please use the following link:
https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35094

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 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.

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.

Proposal Application

May I submit a project that involves human subjects?
Yes. Investigator-initiated trials my be allowed under strict criteria. Please see the Research Focus section of the guidelines for more information. Additionally, basic research using human specimens are eligible.

Are there formatting rules for the Research Proposal?
Yes – please refer to the Guidelines and application form template 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 word count and page limit maximums.

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 and application form template.

Do you have a Biosketch form I should use?
Use the new, updated March 2021 NIH form for your Biographical Sketch (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm).

I have a multi-PI. Should their Biosketch be included in the Attachment?
Yes – please include biosketch(es) for any multi-PIs. Please note that we do not use the term "Co-Investigator." Please describe the roles of key personnel as described in the Guidelines (i.e., multi-PI or collaborator) and do not use terms such as co-I and co-PI in the proposal.

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 Word documents found at:
https://hria.org/tmf/FalkTAP

Can the start date of the award be adjusted?
Yes, an award recipient may postpone the start date for up to three months. Longer delays must be approved and will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances.

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 section of the Budget Form provided with the application. Please include 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 in proportion to the student's time on the project and should be listed in the Other Expenses category and on the Budget Justification tab of the Budget Template Form.

Are subcontracts allowed to a collaborator at a non-invited institution?
Yes, subcontracts are allowed to institutions not on the invited institution list. Only the administrative PI needs to have a primary appointment at an eligible institution.

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=35094

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 Translational Potential, Applicant's initials to certify the accuracy of submitted information, acceptance of Terms of Award, and accuracy of submitted information.

Contact

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