

## Third Frontier Research Incentives – Questions & Answers

*Last updated 9/13/2021*

**1. How many awards do you anticipate to extend for cybersecurity initiatives in Ohio?**

A: There is not a set number of awards. The independent review committee will make recommendations to the Chancellor who will then make awards up to the amount specified in statute (\$750,000 per fiscal year.)

**2. Is there any budget limit (i.e., maximal amount) we should be aware of?**

A: Requestors are not limited to a minimum or maximum budget request.

**3. For a proposal with multiple academic institutions involved, will each institution have a contract with the state? or one institution is leading the contract and remaining institutions have sub-contracts with the leading institution?**

A: There will be one contract with the lead institution and the collaborators will be sub-contractor where appropriate.

**4. Are there any restrictions regarding the citizenship of project participants (including PI/co-PI and students)?**

A: The restrictions imposed by ODHE are limited to the purposes described in the Ohio Constitution for the use of funds (copied below), the appropriation language for topic areas and our contractual obligations to prohibit offshore services.

Research and development in support of Ohio industry, commerce, and business (hereinafter referred to as "research and development purposes"), which shall include, without limitation, research and product innovation, development, and commercialization through efforts by and collaboration among Ohio business and industry, state and local public entities and agencies, public and private education institutions, or research organizations and institutions, all as may be further provided for by state or local law, but excluding purposes provided for in Section 15 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution; and

**5. Prior to the submission, will an applicant have the opportunity to discuss with ODHE to maximize the alignment between the proposed work and the sponsor's interest? If so, how can we proceed?**

A: There will be no opportunity to discuss alignment of interest with ODHE prior to submission.

6. Please confirm whether the published 'max requests' (\$125,000 for pilot grants and \$250,000 for standard research grants) refer to total costs/year or total costs over two years? Do those totals include the 8% F&A?

A: The awards pertain to amount per fiscal year which includes 8% F&A.

7. On page 2 of the RFP, it indicates an 8-month project window with the option to renew. Should the budget we submit provide an overview of only the first-year funds we're requesting, or should we include the potential budget for the second year as well?

A: The budget you submit should provide numbers for the second year as well.

8. We are interested in applying for the Third Frontier Research Incentives Grant, specifically the Cybersecurity initiatives. We are partnering with a local company to apply. We would like to convert a space on our campus to provide cybersecurity training for our partners. In providing that space we would need new computers, desks and the renovation of the lab, such as carpet, paint, and electric ran. Would the cost of the renovations be an allowable expense?

A: All proposals are independently reviewed by an advisory committee who evaluates proposals in their totality to determine which represent the best use of the funds available to achieve the stated objectives while advancing the state's interests in the research areas of focus. If the elements you describe are included in your proposal, they will be evaluated based upon that criteria.

9. I am a potential applicant to the Third Frontier Research Incentives - Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research Funding Opportunity. My question is - Can we have multiple Principal investigators (PI) on the grant. For instance, 1 PI and 2 Co-PIs. OR are we allowed to have only 1 PI and others are collaborators? I am asking as ours is collaborative research and other PIs will also need a share of the budget to carry out the work.

A: You are allowed to have more than one PI on the project.

10. Could you please provide a copy of the terms and conditions that will be followed down under the contract award for review?

A: A successful applicant will be required to enter into a MOU which contains the general provisions that apply to all agreements. Please see [this example document](#).

11. It is stated Project Narrative (ten pages maximum Arial 11-point font). The narrative must address the proposal criteria in order as listed in section B. Section B includes parts 1-7 : Project Rationale, Partnerships and Collaborations, Support of Ohio Industry, Sustainability, Project Plan, Biographical Sketch, Project Evaluation. What parts of Section B are included in the 10 page max?

In particular it does not seem feasible that Biographical Sketches (at 4 pages max per PI) would be intended to be included in an overall 10 page max document. I was assuming it was all parts other than the Biographical Sketches applied to the 10 pages but wanted to clarify. If Parts 1-5 and 7 are part of the 10 page Narrative, should these be together and then followed by Biographical Sketches? Also, is a particular spacing required?

A: Biological sketches are not intended to be included in the 10-page narrative limitations. No particular spacing is required.

**12. If multiple organizations are partnering on a proposal, will the indirect rate restriction of 8% apply to all partners or just the primary one?**

A: The proposal will be viewed as a single proposal regardless of the number of collaborating partners. The indirect cost rate is applied to the proposal as a whole and applies to all submitting entities.

**13. Would you please let us know the likely start date/ award period for Third Frontier/Spinal Cord Standard grants?**

A: The anticipated start date of the grant is mid-November of 2021 with an award period through June 30, 2023.

**14. Do folks normally submit budgets for the full award period (in this case, two years) - knowing that we can request a no-cost extension? Or do they propose an initial budget period of ~7 months and a subsequent period of 12 months?**

A: The budget you propose/submit should be for the full award period and provide numbers for the second year as well.

**15. Is there a certain time on the 13th that the RFP must be submitted, for example 5 p.m.?**

A: Proposal are due **by 11:59PM** on the 13th.

**16. Do I need to list "collaborating partners" and "program partners" if none of them will be responsible for actually implementing the research or project initiative? All of our partners will serve only in a consulting role?.**

A: Yes, if other individuals or organizations are associated with the research and have been identified as a partner, they should be listed.

**17. What's the difference between "collaborating partners" and "program partners" as mentioned on p.12 of the RFP?**

A: Collaborating Partners are individuals or organizations that will be participating in the implementation of the research. Program Partners are individuals or organizations that support the applicant in ways other than direct research implementation. How the "Partners" will be involved in the process should be listed.

**18. In the attached RFA, the guidelines state that the Pilot budget is \$125k for two years. Is the \$125k the TOTAL (Direct+Indirects) amount that can be requested, or the DIRECT amount?**

A: The budget you propose/submit can be **\$125,000 per fiscal year** (*includes all costs direct and indirect*) or **\$250,000 total**.