

Research Incentive - Brain Health - Request for Proposal

Questions & Answers - Updated 3/21/2022

1. Will there only be 1 proposal awarded for a total of \$2MM, or if there is potential for multiple \$2MM proposals to be selected?

Only one proposal will be funded.

2. In section III, the RFP states (underline added for emphasis):

“This research incentive will award funds to one or more brain health related-projects in the area of prevention, early intervention, and slowing the progression of disease and disorders.”

However, section V states (again with underlining by me):

“There will be one proposal award covering both fiscal year 22 and fiscal year 23. The total award amount will be \$2 million.”

Can you clarify whether the intent is for a single award of up to \$2 million, or whether multiple awards may be made but total funding of all awards will be limited to \$2 million?

The intent is to do a single award.

3. May I please request a copy of a previously submitted, and funded (if possible) grant application for the "Third Frontier Research Incentive - Brain Health Research"? I am getting ready to submit my application and a template and "grant application example" would be very helpful!

The Ohio Department of Higher Education has not awarded any funding in this area under the Third Frontier Research Incentive program.

4. We were a little uncertain as to the total amount of funding available, and how many grants might be funded under the proposal. It is information we need in order to determine how many labs can participate in the grant. My reading is that there is a total of \$2M over 2 years that will be allocated to 3 or more projects. Is that correct?

The intent of the RFP is to award one proposal for a total award of \$2m. The funds will be distributed over two fiscal years.

5. The RFA states, "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 subsequently has sections/items 1 through 7, including things such as Biographical Sketches (item 6) that can be up to 4 pages for each individual associated with the application. I am looking for clarification on what items 1-7 are included within this 10-page limit. Are Biographical Sketches, Partnership and Collaboration Letters and such included within this 10-page limit? This doesn't seem to be correct given the page limits typically associated with Biosketches and Research Plans for grants of this size.

Biographical Sketches and Collaboration Letters are NOT included in the 10-page limit. They are envisioned to be separate attachments.

6. Are the remainder of the criteria listed under Section B such as Support of Ohio Industry, Project Plan and Project Evaluation included within the 10-page limit?

Yes.

7. Does developing new molecules for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease fall within the scope of this grant mechanism?

This type of research does not fall within the scope of request.

8. Do drug discovery/development proposals fit within the scope of this award mechanism?

Near-term commercialization efforts specific to drug development could be eligible for response to the request.

9. Are the other items listed on pp. 6-7 of the application also included in the 10 page Project Narrative (i.e., Project Rationale, Partnerships and Collaborations, Support of Ohio Industry, Sustainability, Project Plan, and Project Evaluation) or are these also separate attachments that are not considered as part of the 10 page Project Narrative?

The other items you mentioned are to be included as part of the 10 page project narrative.

10. In the RFP, it is noted on page 7 that the project narrative should be ten pages maximum (p. 5). Later on pp. 6-7, it is noted that the project narrative should included biographical sketches for the principal investigator and senior/key personnel and that these biosketches can be up to

4 pages long for each individual. Do the biosketches count toward to the 10 page limit for the project narrative? I ask as we will likely need to include 6 or so with our application which will take up much of 10 pages allotted for the project narrative. Additionally, is there a specific format that you would like us to use for the biosketches?

Biographical Sketches are NOT included in the 10 page limit; they are envisioned to be separate attachments. Additionally, there is no specific format required for the biographical sketches.

11. Several places in the proposal refer to industry, economic or commercial impact for the state of Ohio, but speaks to these requests a bit generally. Is this RFP expecting to directly generate jobs or commercial activity in the 2 year funding period or is it primarily to fund scientific research that has potential to add to Ohio economy in various ways (potential technology industry development, business creation and/or healthcare cost saving etc.). We are trying to get a sense if our project fits the proposal and can meet the commercial demands in the timeline.

The research should be of an applied nature with the near-term potential of adding to the state's industry and economy through technology innovation, product development, and near term industry advancement based on the research, etc. Your examples of potential technology industry development, and business creation fit the goals of the solicitation. General healthcare cost savings would potentially be outside the scope if not coupled with one of the other examples you identified.

12. is "cost-sharing" a competitive aspect when judging grants? For example, our university has offered to cover a percentage of our salaries if the grant is funded. Should this be included and if so, does it strengthen our grant application?

Contributions from the University to the project will be considered as part of the review process and we would like to see them included if appropriate, but I would not say it would be viewed as a competitive advantage in the scoring process.

13. The "project narrative" is limited to 10 pages. Are the "biographical sketches" included in this ten page limit or are they not counted towards the limit?

Biographical sketches are NOT included in the ten page narrative limit. They should be included as a supplement.

14. In the project narrative section, as outlined in Section B, it states, " Attach any exhibits, maps, data tables, or other relevant information." Is this included as part of the 10 page limit, or are they separate attachments?

These items are not included as part of the ten page limit.

15. The goal of my research program is to develop and test the efficacy of various mind-body interventions in improving the cognitive and affective health of older adults and individuals with neurological disabilities. As such, I am interested in submitting a proposal to this RFP.

The general themes of your research fit within the scope of the opportunity.

16. What sections are included in the 10-page count? Do you have any limits on the margin size used? We normally write with 0.5 inch margins for grants, but wanted to confirm that this would be okay.

All proposal requirements are outlined in Section VIII; Proposal Requirements. Please review it in its entirety. Biographical Sketches and collaboration letters are NOT included in the 10 page limit; they are envisioned to be separate attachments. Additionally, there is no specific margin required. However proposals must be submitted in Arial font, 11 point or larger; there is an exception for tables and images. Please review the proposal for page allocations and directions for each section of the proposal.

17. In preparation for this submission, I am unable to find any guidance on whether there is a limit on pages or # of references for the "References".

There is a ten page limit for the proposal narrative referenced in the solicitation. The page limit does not include Bio sketches. There is no limit on the number of references.

18. I am reaching out to find out what you are expecting in terms of a budget table. Item 4 of the proposal requirements says "Budget narrative & Budget table (two pages maximum)". Do you want a table that outlines all items in the budget? If so, does it count towards the 2 page max or does that only apply to the budget narrative?

All proposal requirements relating to the budget are outlined in Section VIII, Section A, specifically #4. Please review it in its entirety. Tables are NOT included in the 2 page limit; they are envisioned to be separate attachments. Additionally, we cannot review your proposal or any portion thereof prior to the proposal review period stated in the RFP.

