



Biotechnology Research Grant (BRG)

BRG Program Guidelines for Preproposal Applications

Proposals must be submitted via the North Carolina Biotechnology Center online application by NOON on the deadline date.

- ⊗ *Proposals sent by fax, e-mail or hard copy will not be accepted.*

Program Requirements

Purpose

Biotechnology Research Grants (BRG) support novel research projects in one of the six targeted sectors:

- Nanobiotechnology
- Marine biotechnology
- Natural products biotechnology
- Biotechnology combination medical devices
- Biotechnology applications to nutrition, food safety, and agriculture
- Biotechnology applications to drug discovery

The proposed projects must demonstrate the potential to strengthen biotechnology research and development at non-profit research institutions in the early stages of building their research capacity. Awards are intended to support the generation of preliminary data required to attract funding from other sources, with the ultimate goal of technology commercialization.

Note: All NEW submissions must fall into one of the targeted sectors. Invited resubmission of previously declined proposals that do not fall into one of the targeted sectors is permissible provided reviewer comments are thoroughly addressed.

Funding and Matching Requirements

- A maximum of \$75,000 for up to 18 months will be awarded.
- There is a minimum 10% matching requirement. Matching funds may include salaries for support personnel (e.g. technicians, graduate students, etc.) and materials and supplies.

- Requested funds may include salaries/benefits for investigators and support personnel. **Note:** requested funds for principal investigator salary/benefits may not exceed 10% of the total amount requested.
- Requested funds may be used for travel directly related to the project.
- ⊗ *Grant funds may not be used for office supplies, secretarial services, overhead/indirect costs, tuition or patenting costs.*
- ⊗ *Faculty salaries may not be used as matching funds.*

Who May Apply

The principal investigator must be associated with a North Carolina academic or nonprofit research institution. However, investigators at the *main campuses* of institutions with the RU/VH (Very High Research Activity) classification in the Carnegie system (Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSU) are not eligible for this program. Researchers at these institutions are encouraged to investigate other Biotechnology Center funding programs (www.ncbiotech.org/grants).

- Investigators from research institutions working to establish and grow their research infrastructure are eligible, including *satellite campuses* of Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSU such as marine research laboratories, agricultural research stations, and ecological research stations.
- For grants awarded to academic institutions, the principal investigator must hold a full-time tenure-track or tenured faculty appointment. Visiting Scientists are not eligible. For awards to non-profit research institutions, the principal investigator must be a permanent research staff member.
- Junior faculty are strongly encouraged to apply.
- ⊗ *An investigator may be included on only ONE submission. This applies whether the investigator is a collaborator, co-PI, consultant or PI.*

Submission Process

There are two steps to the BRG submission process: **pre-proposal** and **full proposal** submission. Preproposals may be submitted by any applicant meeting the eligibility criteria described under “Who May Apply” pursuing a project in one of the targeted sectors.

- **Preproposals** should consist of a brief overview of the project, bibliography, budget, biographical sketch and required supporting documents.
 - **Resubmissions:** PIs invited to resubmit should submit only a brief overview and documents as described above. **In addition**, they should include a response to reviewer comments.
- Based on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Panel, a subset of applicants submitting preproposals will be invited to submit a **full proposal**.
- ⊗ *ONLY proposals invited from the pool of preproposals will be considered for funding.*

Review Process

The preproposal review process includes:

- Examination by Center staff, to ensure the proposed project relates to biotechnology and meets basic requirements for the grant program.
- Preproposals will be reviewed by a Scientific Advisory Panel. Invitations for submission of full proposals will be based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants should explicitly demonstrate:

- The potential for significant contribution to the development of biotechnology or of commercial products derived from biotechnology.
- The initiation of novel and innovative research. A project judged to represent a continuation of research already in progress is not eligible.
- The need for seed-money funding. Consideration for BRG funding is independent of funding secured for ongoing, unrelated projects within a lab. A project funded by another source, is ineligible for a BRG.

- The Scientific Advisory Panel will place significant emphasis on:
 - **Originality:** Are the scientific objectives and applications of the technology innovative/creative?
 - **Scientific Merit:** Is the project plan logical and does it have a reasonable probability of success?
 - **Significance:** Will the project address an important problem; is it likely to generate ongoing support from other sources; will it serve to support technology commercialization?
- ⊗ *The North Carolina Biotechnology Center does NOT fund clinical trials. Generally, if you are testing a new therapeutic, diagnostic or device for safety and efficacy in patients, it will be considered a clinical trial.*

Post-award Reporting

Brief post-award reports are required. More information on reporting requirements will be provided on request or when a grant is awarded.

Information Release

It is the policy of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center to announce awards through press releases and other publications. These communications typically include the Project Title and Public Information Summary that are provided by the applicant. No information is released on declined proposals.

Confidentiality

The Biotechnology Center will endeavor to maintain the confidentiality of all applicants' information. However, the applicant is responsible for not disclosing any information that should not be reviewed outside of the Biotechnology Center.

Science and Technology Development Program

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See our grant application Web page at
www.ncbiotech.org/grants