

2024 Seed Grant Cycle Programs Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What costs can I allocate to seed or planning grant funds?

In addition to institutional restrictions on the use of funds, the CCIL seeks to maximize the cancer impact of designated funds. Grant recipients will be responsible for ensuring that all expenditures directly relate to the proposed scope of work. If after review it is determined that certain expenditures are not appropriate, the principal investigator's (PI's) unit will be responsible for bearing those costs.

Allowable costs include (*but may not be limited to*):

- Consumable supplies
- Contractual services
- Salaries for Post Doc, Graduate Research Assistants, Student Hourly and Academic Hourly employees
- Equipment
- Travel
- Non-employee travel
- Publication and/or printing costs
- Rental costs

Unallowable costs include (*but may not be limited to*):

- Alcohol
- Membership dues
- Subscriptions
- Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator (Faculty) salary
- Fringe benefits
- Tuition remission
- Service or maintenance contracts for equipment

Note: Please contact the [Cancer Center at Illinois](#) with further questions regarding allowable costs.

Q: Can funding be applied to Academic Professional (AP) and Civil Service (CS) salaries (excluding fringe)?

Yes, Academic Professional (AP) and/or Civil Service (CS) staff can be paid from these grants as long as their efforts are directly related to the project.

Q: Is administrative support an allowable cost?

Administrative support is not allowed, as it would be difficult to define effort solely on behalf of a project.

Q: What happens to remaining funds in my CFOP after I've completed my project if I haven't used the entire awarded amount?

All expenditures must directly relate to your approved CCIL Seed Grant research project and any unspent funds will be pulled back to the CCIL for future initiatives.

Q: What if I can't get all of the work completed that I proposed in the time allotted?

Please contact the [Cancer Center at Illinois](#) to discuss the possibility of a no-cost extension.

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Q: My project would not require the use of the maximum funding amount, can/should I still apply for funding?

Yes, teams are encouraged to apply for the amount of funding that is needed to execute their project.

Q: Is cost-sharing necessary/accepted in this program? Would a cost-sharing component improve funding chances?

Cost-sharing is not necessary and would not improve one's funding chances.

Q: If my project is funded, how long will it take for funds to be released?

Funds will be released when all required information is completely submitted (*i.e.*, *scope of work, animal protocol approval, unit business contact information, CFOP establishment, etc.*) and assurance is made that the research is ready to be initiated.

Q: I do cancer-related research, but am not a member. Can I still apply for funding?

Yes, persons doing cancer-related, cancer-focused, or cancer-relevant research are encouraged to apply.

Q: What is the minimum number of collaborators needed in order to make a proposal viable?

Preference is given to projects directed toward submission of multi-PI and program project level grant applications, however there is no specified minimum number of collaborators required. Each PI is given the freedom to determine the project's scientific and effort needs.

Q: Do projects have to be or take up the entire two (2) years?

No, projects do not have to last for two years. We realize that some projects could be for a year as teams collect pilot data.

Q: Am I only limited to working with cancer researchers who are Cancer Center at Illinois members?

No – if a person is conducting cancer-relevant/focused research, they are eligible to participate on a team.

Q: How would I be able to tell which researchers are a part of which Cancer Center programs?

A listing of the Cancer Center programs and corresponding researchers can be found on [the CCIL website](#).

Q: Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please send an email to the [Cancer Center at Illinois](#), and a staff member will respond to your inquiry.