

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Flinn Foundation’s Translational Seed Grants Program

Q: Why does Flinn Foundation have a Translational Seed Grants Program?

A: In 2002, the Flinn Foundation commissioned the creation of [Arizona’s Bioscience Roadmap](#), a long-term strategic plan to advance Arizona’s bioscience sector. The plan, updated in 2014, includes five overarching goals.

The Roadmap’s second goal is “to increase the ability of research-performing institutions to turn bench research results into improved disease and illness prevention, detection, and treatment.”

The Seed Grants to Promote Translational Research Program helps the state reach this goal by funding research projects that focus on creating new products and services to benefit patients.

Q: What does participation in the Translational Seed Grants Program involve?

- A:**
- A \$100,000 grant, dispersed in two \$50,000 increments over the 18-month grant period. The second payment is contingent upon meeting key project milestones and expenditure reporting.
 - For the Principal Investigator (PI): Required quarterly Cohort check-ins, at which project progress is discussed with fellow grantees, Flinn staff, and advisors. Guest experts in specific aspects of the commercialization process also speak with the Cohort at these meetings—providing additional opportunities to learn about the commercialization process.
 - Membership on Arizona’s Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee.
 - The opportunity to compete for Follow-On Funding at the final Cohort meeting.

Q: Who has been awarded within the Program in the past?

A: Find a list of past recipients on our [website](#).

Q: How much is the follow-on funding?

A: Two additional awards of \$100,000, each to be spent over 12 months, may be awarded at the end of the initial grant period.

Eligibility

Q: What is a qualifying institution?

A: Arizona-based, nonprofit academic institutions, medical research institutions, or health systems qualify to receive the grants. The recipient institution must be a 501(c)(3) entity and must be able to produce documentation of such. Private institutions may be able to apply through their foundation, if applicable. Please reach out with questions.

Q: Are startup companies not connected to research institutions eligible to apply?

A: These entities are not directly eligible to apply but can partner with an eligible institution to do so.

Q: What if I own the IP entirely?

A: The award recipient still needs to be affiliated with a non-profit university, health system, research institute, or foundation. The institution is the fiscal agent for the program and signs off on the grant agreement.

Q: Can funding be sub-awarded outside of Arizona?

A: Sub-awards to a partner outside of Arizona are allowable; however, it must be evident from the proposal and the proposed budget that Arizona is the primary site for project work. Competitive proposals will utilize the majority of funds within the state. Proposed international sub-awards will face higher scrutiny, as the investigators will have to justify why activities cannot be conducted within Arizona or the broader U.S.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of proposals per organization allowed?

A: No. Each Principal Investigator can only be awarded one grant, but you can submit multiple proposals, if you would like.

Q: Are preclinical experiments that involve repurposing FDA-approved drugs considered?

A: Yes. It depends on what you're going to do with the product (e.g., How will you make sure people know about it? How will you make sure people adopt it? What is the compelling case?).

Q: Our innovation is similar to that of a previous Seed Grants awardee. Will our proposal be considered?

A: Previous funding of similar innovations doesn't inherently preclude new funding. Please reach out with your specific situation for additional guidance.

Application

Q: What goes into my application?

A: In the Flinn Foundation Application Portal, you will complete:

- 1) A demographics form
- 2) An application form, consisting of:
 - a. A 300-word layperson summary
 - b. A 15-slide application deck
 - c. A letter of support from your institution

Q: Why are my demographics captured?

A: The Flinn Foundation collects demographic information to track diversity metrics, which helps us understand the environment in which we work and improve equity across our organization and programs.

Diversity drives innovation. While the term is often used in reference to race, ethnicity, and gender, we understand it to also include diversity in background, life experiences, skill set, and self-identification. We encourage all to apply.

Q: What goes into my application deck?

A: Application decks **must not exceed 15 slides** and must include the following topics (**in this order**):

1. Title Slide
2. Clinical need and scale of the problem
3. Current solutions / limitations
4. Proposed new solution and expected benefits
5. Development work done to-date Slide 1 of 2
6. Development work done to-date Slide 2 of 2
7. Validation (inc. mention of publications, customer feedback, etc.)
8. Plan for commercialization/licensing (NOTE: Open-source solutions will be considered, but a plan to launch and acquire users must be included)
9. Regulatory requirements and plan to address
10. Project plan for grant period, including goals and key milestones
11. Current intellectual property (IP) and IP strategy
12. Funding received to date and future funding plans
13. Project team/resources and environment
14. Detailed breakout of proposed use of Flinn grant funds (inc. indirect costs)
15. What else reviewers should know about your project

Q: Can I make edits to my application, even after I've submitted it?

A: Yes.

- Q:** How much of my budget can be allocated toward indirect costs?
- A:** Indirect costs can be no more than 10% of your overall \$100,000 grant budget. **The \$100,000 is inclusive of indirect costs.**
- Q:** Should I talk to my tech transfer office before submitting?
- A:** Yes, applicants should talk to their tech transfer office before applying for the program. The strongest applications demonstrate knowledge of the tech transfer process and are working with the institution to create an IP plan.

Review

- Q:** What is the review process?
- A:** Expert panels will be assigned to review eligible applications. Evaluation components are outlined on the scoring rubric (available in the [online Request for Proposals](#)). Assessments will be made, and feedback will be generated.

The first-round reviewers will select up to 25 proposals to move to the next round of review.

The final review panel will select up to 10 projects to recommend for funding to the Flinn Foundation CEO and Board of Directors.

Awardees will be selected and notified in mid-December.

All considered applicants will be provided feedback from the reviewers.

- Q:** Who will see my application? Should I use layperson's terms on the slides?
- A:** Your audience is a panel of reviewers with a variety of experiences and specialties. Each will be knowledgeable in science, medicine, and/or entrepreneurship, but the slides do not need to be extremely technical. The reviewers are professionals, so please address them as such. You are telling a story and creating a compelling discussion.