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The applicant will be notified of the decision to disapprove the application after the preliminary evaluation stage has concluded. Due to the volume of applications to be reviewed, comments made by reviewers at the preliminary evaluation stage may not be provided to applicants. The preliminary evaluation process will be used only when the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the review panels to conduct a full peer review of all received applications.

## **9.2. Full Peer Review**

Applications that pass preliminary evaluation will undergo further review using a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 9.4](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all of the peer review panels and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC.

The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

## **9.3. Confidentiality of Review**

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Scientific Peer Review Panel members, Scientific Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with access to grant application information are required to



sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Scientific Peer Review Panel members and Scientific Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Research Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period when pre-applications or letters of interest are accepted.

Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

#### **9.4. Review Criteria**

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

### 9.4.1. Primary Criteria

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit and potential impact of the proposed work contained in the application. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed study. Primary criteria include the following:

**Significance and Impact:** Will the results of this research, if successful, significantly change the research of others or the opportunities for better cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment for patients? Is the application innovative? Does the applicant propose new paradigms or challenge existing ones? Does the project develop state-of-the-art technologies, methods, tools, or resources for cancer research or address important underexplored or unexplored areas? If the research project is successful, will it lead to truly substantial advances in the field rather than add modest increments of insight? Projects that modestly extend current lines of research will not be considered for this award. Projects that represent straightforward extensions of ongoing work, especially work traditionally funded by other mechanisms, will not be competitive.

**Research Plan:** Is the proposed work presented as a self-contained research project? Does the proposed research have a clearly defined hypothesis or goal that is supported by sufficient preliminary data and/or scientific rationale? Are the methods appropriate, and are potential experimental obstacles and unexpected results discussed?

**Applicant Investigator:** Does the applicant investigator demonstrate the required creativity and expertise to make a significant contribution to the research? Applicants' credentials will be evaluated in a career stage-specific fashion. Have early-career-stage investigators received excellent training, and do their accomplishments to date offer great promise for a successful career? Has the applicant devoted a sufficient amount of his or her time (percent effort) to this project?

**Relevance:** Does the proposed research address cancer in children or adolescents? Is it likely to make an impact on these diseases? This is a critical criterion for evaluation of projects for CPRIT support.

## 9.4.2. Secondary Criteria

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the feasibility of the proposed research.

Secondary criteria include the following:

**Research Environment:** Does the research team have the needed expertise, facilities, and resources to accomplish all aspects of the proposed research? Are the levels of effort of the key personnel appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support of the research team and the project?

**Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects:** Is the vertebrate animals and/or human subjects plan adequate and sufficiently detailed?

**Budget:** Is the budget appropriate for the proposed work?

**Duration:** Is the stated duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 10, 2019

### Application

Online application opens March 7, 2019, 7 AM central time

Application due June 5, 2019, 4 PM central time

Application review June 2019–February 2020

### Award

Award notification February 2020

Anticipated start date March 1, 2020

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to

exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## **12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the Grant Recipient's Matching Funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The

demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## **13. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **13.1. Helpdesk**

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific aspects of applications.

**Hours of operation:** Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time.

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

Questions regarding the CPRIT program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Senior Manager for Academic Research.

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)