CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA R-26.2-RRCTA

Recruitment or Retention of Clinical Trialists Award

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which will be posted on August 5, 2025

Application Receipt Dates:

January 20, 2026

March 20, 2026

May 20, 2026

FY 2026

Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026

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RFA VERSION HISTORY

8/5/25	RFA release

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RFA

- The Recruitment or Retention of Clinical Trialists Award (RRCTA) provides support to recruit and retain experienced clinical trialists, eg, oncologists in any specialty, to lead cancer clinical research programs in rural and underserved communities in the State of Texas. Rural and underserved counties may be identified via web-based tools from the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any public or not-for-profit institution, health care system, or community hospital serving rural or underserved populations is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Research (TREC)-eligible institutions are qualified and encouraged to apply. See the *Instructions for Applicants* (IFA) released on August 5, 2025, for a list of TREC-eligible institutions.
- Institutions are **limited to the submission of one application** in response to this Request for Applications (RFA).
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have an MD, MD/PhD, DO, or equivalent medical degree, have a pending or approved Texas license, and reside in Texas at the time an award contract is made and for the duration of the award.
- The PI must have oncology subspecialty training or equivalent and be certified by their institution to provide patient care in an oncology-related practice.
- **This mechanism will support the recruitment or retention of oncologists who will increase access to phase 2 and 3 cancer therapeutic trials appropriate for a community oncology care setting.**
- Oncologists who conduct only clinical trials evaluating surgical or radiation cancer therapies or imaging are not appropriate for this mechanism. Similarly, oncologists who conduct only clinical trials evaluating behavioral or prevention services are not appropriate for this mechanism.
- Applicants must have a track record of conducting clinical trials research, such as industry-sponsored or cooperative group trials.
- The RFA provides for flexibility in the recruitment of clinical investigators at any career stage. Grant funds of up to $2,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested for early-career oncologists (Assistant Professor level), up to $2,500,000 for

mid-level oncologists (Associate Professor level), or $3,000,000 for established oncologists (Professor level).

- Three application submission dates are available for FY2026: January 20, 2026; March 20, 2026; and May 20, 2026.
- Institutions must commit to providing the protected time (4.8- to 6-person months or 40% to 50% full-time professional effort annually) required to develop and/or conduct a clinical research program for the duration of the award.
- Multi-PIs (MIs), or Coinvestigators, are not allowed under this RFA. Note that CPRIT does not allow the use of the term Co-PI.
- The institution may submit both an application to this RFA and a new application to the Rural Oncology Trials Accelerator Award during this fiscal year.
- This award is not transferable to another institution or PI.

2. ABOUT CPRIT

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), which may issue up to $6 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to do the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of, or cures for, cancer;
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in the State of Texas; and
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan.

2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities

The Texas Legislature has charged the CPRIT Oversight Committee with establishing program priorities on an annual basis. These priorities are intended to provide transparency with regard to how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio.

To accomplish CPRIT's long-term vision, the Oversight Committee has identified these 2026 priorities:

- Investing in the cancer research capacity of Texas institutions through recruitment of cancer scholars, investing in core facilities, and investing in individual investigator awards in all regions of the state;
- Building the Texas cancer life science ecosystem across Texas by bridging discovery and translational research into early-stage company products with high impact on cancer patient care and creating economic development for the State of Texas; and
- Increasing the capacity for Texas to have a significant impact on cancer prevention and early detection, ultimately decreasing cancer incidence and mortality.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure in all regions of the state
- Reducing cancer disparities

The program priorities for academic research adopted by the Oversight Committee include funding projects that address the following:

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention, early detection, or risk assessment approaches, and interventions
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials
- Cancer survivorship research to enhance the health and well-being of cancer survivors and caregivers.

3. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to expand access to clinical trials in Texas by providing financial support to attract clinical oncologists with expertise in the conduct of cancer clinical trials to health care systems, community hospitals or community oncology practices, critical access hospitals, federally qualified health centers, or safety-net providers in rural regions or areas with underserved populations in Texas to establish or expand clinical research programs that add to the clinical trials portfolio of the State. Rural and underserved counties may be identified via web-based tools from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Cancer clinical trials are critical to developing new standard-of-care treatment options and improving patient outcomes. Yet, most patients are not able to participate in trials, and those who do participate are not reflective of the population living with cancer. Where trials are offered across the United States likely has a large impact on patient access and participation in research. Furthermore, increased travel time is associated with a higher risk of presenting with advanced cancer and lower enrollment in trials.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) routinely uses geospatial analysis techniques with publicly accessible data sources to identify oncology clinicians and practices relative to population-based indicators of need, such as cancer diagnoses, social vulnerability, and rurality. A recent study leveraged ASCO's infrastructure and data available from ClinicalTrials.gov to describe the national landscape of cancer treatment trials to examine the demographic and social features of US geographies by trial availability (Kirkwood MK et al, *JCO Oncol Practice* 21:427, 2024).

This analysis revealed that most US counties have limited to no cancer clinical trial offerings, a disparity magnified in counties that are nonmetropolitan, with high social vulnerability, and with high cancer mortality. Seventy percent of US counties had no reported active trials in 2022 representing 19% of people age ≥55 years. Rural counties were particularly affected in that 86% of nonmetropolitan counties had no trials vs 44% of metropolitan counties. Eighteen percent of counties without trials had oncologist care sites, providing an opportunity to expand access to trials. These results emphasize that efforts to facilitate diverse site participation are needed to promote equitable access to trials and to ensure that patients participating in trials match the characteristics of patients who will receive interventions once approved.

The issue of geographic distance is exacerbated in Texas, particularly in West and South Texas, where many patients with cancer live in geographic regions that are distant from oncologists, suggesting that access to research staff and infrastructure is similarly uneven. Limited or no access for cancer patients to clinical trials in areas of Texas creates an opportunity for CPRIT to deploy funding in an area of critical need that is not heavily represented in other funding portfolios. Ensuring that more patients with cancer can participate in trials over the course of their care will require multiple components, including expanding the pool of clinical trialists as well as increasing the workforce of trained research staff and infrastructure.

This RFA mechanism addresses the first of these gaps—expanding the pool of trained oncology clinical trialists—and will provide flexibility to support clinical oncologists at every level from early-stage oncologists (Assistant Professor level) to mid-level oncologists (Associate Professor level) to established clinical oncologists (Professor level) whose body of work has made an important contribution to clinical research and the development of cancer therapies. Awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting talented investigators, thereby advancing clinical cancer research efforts and promoting economic and workforce development in the State of Texas.

4. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award mechanism is to recruit and retain experienced clinical trialists, eg, in any oncology specialty, to lead cancer research programs in rural and underserved communities in the State of Texas. This award honors candidates at all levels of experience, eg, equivalent to Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor level, who have a demonstrated background in clinical trials such as cooperative group or industry experience. **This mechanism will support the recruitment or retention of oncologists who will increase access to phase 2 and 3 cancer therapeutic trials appropriate for a community oncology care setting.** Oncologists who conduct only clinical trials evaluating surgical or radiation cancer therapies or imaging are not appropriate for this mechanism. Similarly, oncologists who conduct only clinical trials evaluating behavioral or prevention services are not appropriate for this mechanism.

All nominees should be recognized as clinical research investigators, held in the highest esteem by professional colleagues. Senior nominees must be recognized for contributions that have had a significant influence on their discipline. They must have clearly established themselves as

exemplary physicians and with exceptional accomplishments in mentoring clinical cancer research activities. It is expected that the nominee will contribute significantly to, and have a major impact on, the institution's overall cancer clinical research initiative. Nominees will be leaders capable of initiating and developing creative ideas leading to novel solutions related to the conduct of clinical research. They are also expected to lead a strong patient-oriented research group and have a robust publication portfolio commensurate with their level of experience.

Ideal nominees will have specific expertise in cancer-related areas needed to address an institutional priority. This funding mechanism considers expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience as vital metrics for guiding CPRIT's investment in that person's originality, insight, and potential for continued contribution. Relevance to cancer research and to alignment with geographic opportunities and patient access priorities are also important evaluation criteria for CPRIT funding.

The CPRIT RRCTA will do the following:

- Provide physicians with the opportunity to develop or expand external relations with industry and pharmaceutical company partners, clinical research leaders at academic institutions, and national cooperative groups.
- Provide the protected time from clinical responsibilities required to develop and conduct clinical trials, eg, industry sponsored or cooperative group.
- Increase the pool of clinical investigators in Texas who are conducting patient-oriented studies, who will be able to compete successfully to bring clinical studies to their institutions and become institutional leaders in clinical research, and who will mentor the next generation of clinical investigators.

To accomplish these objectives, the CPRIT RRCTA will provide awards of $2,000,000 to $3,000,000 for up to 5 years to physicians to develop or expand clinical research programs to further both the investigator's career and the CPRIT mission to increase access to clinical trials to patients with cancer in Texas and to provide mentorship in clinical research. This award may be used for the following:

- To provide salary support to the nominee for levels of effort between 40% to 50% full-time professional effort annually.
- To support essential clinical trials staff, eg, research nurses, regulatory managers.

- To support clinical trials start-up costs.

CPRIT's anticipates that the outcome of these awards will be the recruitment/retention of qualified clinical trialists to institutions serving rural and/or underserved communities and the subsequent initiation or expansion of trial portfolios within the first year; establishment of sustainable leadership locally; and enhanced engagement with trial sponsors and clinical cooperative groups, patients, and referring providers.

5. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

This CPRIT recruitment award is intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting talented clinical investigators to Texas. The sponsoring institution must provide a letter of commitment to the nominee's career goals as a productive, independent investigator. Additionally, the institution should describe how the nominee is an integral part of the institution's research program. CPRIT recognizes that clinical investigators will need to commit time to direct patient care and that the time commitment required will vary depending on the nature of the individual's clinical practice and level of prior experience; however, the **institution must commit to providing the protected time (4.8- to 6-person months or 40% to 50% full-time professional effort annually) required, as well as describe the duties from which the applicant will be relieved and the institutional commitment to, and methods for, enhancing the nominee's ability to be a productive independent investigator.**

The funds provided by CPRIT for the RRCTA must be complemented by a strong financial institutional commitment to the recruitment. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see section 10.2.5) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the nominee's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award for the duration of the award.

6. FUNDING INFORMATION

This award is for up to 5 years and is not renewable, although individuals may apply for other future CPRIT funding as appropriate. Grant support will be awarded based upon the experience

of the nominee and breadth and nature of the research program proposed. Grant funds of up to $2,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested for early-stage oncologists (Assistant Professor level), up to $2,500,000 for mid-level oncologists (Associate Professor level), or $3,000,000 for established oncologists (Professor level). Applicants are encouraged to tailor the budget as appropriate to the exigencies of the project; grant funds totaling less than the sums indicated above for the term of the award are acceptable if warranted by the scope of the research. Funding may be used by the clinical investigator for salary and fringe support (salary up to the CPRIT maximum of $225,000/FTE) for protected time, research nurses or regulatory managers, and clinical trial start-up expenses. Applicants are encouraged to design a scholarly clinical research experience that fits their background and program plan.

PI	Academic Equivalent	Total Funding	Award Period
Early Investigator	Assistant Professor	$2,000,000	5 years
Mid-Level Investigator	Associate Professor	$2,500,000	5 years
Established Investigator	Professor	$3,000,000	5 years

The award request may include indirect costs of up to 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Funds may not be carried over beyond 5 years except under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification for a no-cost extension. In addition, funds for extraordinary equipment needs may be awarded in the first year of the grant if very well justified and a detailed justification is provided along with an institutional plan should the additional funds not be approved. The PI is expected to attend CPRIT's biennial conference. CPRIT funds may be used to reimburse registration, travel, and lodging expenses for the nominee and up to 1 mentee to attend the biennial CPRIT conference. **Funds from this award mechanism may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space.**

Institutions may only submit one application to this RFA. Note that the maximum annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may request under a CPRIT award for FY 2026 is $225,000. CPRIT's FY 2026 is from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative costs, also referred to as indirect costs. An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment,

whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

7. ELIGIBILITY

- Any Texas public or not-for-profit institution, health care system, or community hospital serving rural or underserved populations is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. TREC-eligible institutions are qualified to apply, as they typically serve rural areas of the state and underserved communities. Institutions with experience in national clinical trials programs or cooperative groups, eg, NCI Community Oncology Research Program sites or Children's Oncology Group Institutions (or Affiliates), are encouraged to apply if they meet the criteria outlined above. A public or private company is not eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- PIs must be nominated by an institutional leader, eg, vice president for research or appropriate dean, chief executive officer, or health system leader of a Texas-based entity. The application must be submitted on behalf of a specific PI.
- A PI may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given PI, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- No award is final until approved by the Oversight Committee at a public meeting. However, in recognition of the timeline involved with recruiting highly sought-after PIs who may be considering multiple offers, CPRIT's Academic Research program staff will notify the nominating institution of the Scientific Review Council's review decision following the Scientific Review Council meeting. If a position is offered to the PI during the period following the Scientific Review Council's review decision but prior to the Oversight Committee's final approval, the institution does so at its own risk. There is no guarantee that the recruitment award will be approved by the Oversight Committee.
- The PI must have an MD, MD/PhD, DO, or equivalent medical degree and reside in Texas at the time an award contract is made and for the duration of the award. Nominees for a retention award must have an active Texas medical license. Funds will not be released by CPRIT until the nominee has an active Texas medical license.

- The PI must have oncology subspecialty training or equivalent and be certified by their institution to provide patient care in an oncology-related practice.
- At the time of the nomination of new recruits, the PI must be eligible and qualified for appointment at the level of an early-stage oncologist (or Assistant Professor) or should currently hold an appointment commensurate with the rank of a mid-level or established oncologist (Associate Professor or Professor or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, health care system or community hospital. New recruits at the early-career level, eg, individuals who are completing their clinical training, may currently reside in Texas, whereas nominees at the mid-career level and established investigators are expected to reside outside of Texas at the time of the recruitment.
- Currently employed oncologists may only be proposed for retention by the institution that presently employs them. For nominees proposed for retention under this RFA, the PI must be qualified for appointment at their present level or for promotion to an appropriate rank.
- The institution may submit both an application to this RFA and a new application to the Rural Oncology Trials Accelerator Award during this fiscal year.
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the nominator, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not the individuals will receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant

funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in section 13 and section 14. All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.texas.gov.

8. RESUBMISSION POLICY

Not applicable as this is a new CPRIT RFA.

9. RENEWAL POLICY

Not applicable as this is a new CPRIT RFA.

10. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

10.1. Application Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (https://CPRITGrants.org). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application is submitted. PIs must be nominated by an institutional leader, eg, vice president for research, appropriate dean, chief executive officer, or health system leader. The individual submitting the application (nominator) must create a user account in the system (which includes the nominator's credentials and email address) to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official, who is the person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization, and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official, who is the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made, also must create a user account in CARS. Three review cycles and application closing dates will be available for FY26: January 20, 2026; March 20, 2026, and May 20, 2026.

Please see Section 12 for review cycle dates. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

10.2. Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. For details, please refer to the *IFA* document that will be on August 5, 2025. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in section 7 will be administratively withdrawn without review.

10.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,500 characters)

Provide a brief summary of the nomination. Include the PI's name and organization from which the PI is being recruited. If applicable, provide the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the PI will hold the position (or currently holds an appointment for retention nominees). Briefly summarize the nominee's background in clinical trials research. Provide the necessary context by describing the institution's vision for the cancer programs and how the work of the nominee contributes to achieving these goals. For retention nominations, provide a rationale for nominating the individual at the present time, a summary of their accomplishments relative to clinical research, and the institution's vision for the clinical trials program. Summarize any professional commitments to the PI including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel, clinical trials, and research infrastructure.

10.2.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. **This section must be completed by the PI.** Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall aims of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing cancer care. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary.

10.2.3. Summary of Specific Aims and Subaims (2,000 characters)

Please provide a summary of the aims of the proposal. **This section must be completed by the PI.** The Specific Aims Summary should identify the problem or gap in our current knowledge. It

should present a hypothesis and briefly describe the aims and approaches and address the proposal's innovation, novel approaches, expected outcomes, and significance and impact on cancer care and cancer research.

10.2.4. Specific Aims and Subaims

List Specific Aims and Subaims to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the PI**. At least 1 specific aim and 1 subaim are required. These Aims/Subaims will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Up to 5 specific aims and 5 subaims per specific aim may be entered. At least 1 sub aim is required per aim. Refer to the template for Specific Aims and Subaims document located in *Current Funding Opportunities* for Academic Research in CARS.

10.2.5. Institutional Commitment and Letter of Support (3 pages)

This CPRIT clinical trialist recruitment/retention award is intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer clinical research to Texas. The institutional commitment and support should be clearly documented in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institutional leader, eg, appropriate dean or health care system leader.

Recruitment Process: Describe the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to this nomination. Provide the necessary context by describing the institution's vision for the cancer programs, how the work of the nominee contributes to achieving these goals, and the expected impact of the recruitment on the institution (or department) and the burden of cancer in Texas (if applicable). For oncologists proposed for retention, provide a rationale for the proposed expansion of the clinical research program and retention of the nominee at this time, and how it contributes to the institution's vision. Summarize the nominee's accomplishments.

Caliber of PI: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the PI and justification of nomination of the PI by the institution. It is incumbent on the institution to describe the impact of a nominee's work on cancer treatment.

Commitment: The funds provided by CPRIT for the RRCTA clinical trialist should be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to this recruitment/retention. The financial commitments made to the PI by the institution are required to be equal to or exceed

50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the term of the CPRIT grant. *The following guidelines should be followed when documenting the institutional commitment to the PI:*

- The letter must include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award (see the next bullet point). The financial commitments made to the PI by the institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.
- Institutional commitment as described above must be presented in a table (example below) that clearly identifies the salary amount, sources of salary, and any additional research support from institutional sources over the course of the CPRIT award. Sources of support for the PI's full salary for the duration of the award must be documented. Institutional commitment may include supplemental salary provided to compensate for reduced clinical service. Note that a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the PI.
- While clinical investigators must engage in direct patient care activities and/or have some administrative or teaching duties, 40% to 50% of the PI's effort must be committed to clinical research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding. The certification that this level of effort will be dedicated to research must be included. If the individual(s) providing the institutional commitment letter is not the leader of the health care system or individual with authority to approve protected time from clinical service, provide an additional letter of commitment from the appropriate individual confirming the commitment to providing the protected time requested in the application.
- **The institutional commitment letter must include the following statement** regarding the institution's financial commitment required to meet the 50% match.
    - "This institutional financial commitment will not be offset by funds from an investigator-initiated award received by the PI. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the PI's salary will be redirected to allow the PI to use them for program support."

- Include a brief job description for the PI should recruitment/retention be successful, as well as performance expectations.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the PI including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel and clinical trials and research infrastructure, and discuss all other agreements between the institution and the PI.
- Document the institution's commitment to the PI's career goals as a productive, independent investigator.
- Provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations and leveraging the institution's unique strengths will foster the PI's career trajectory. For example, describe patient populations of particular significance, cancer clinical programs of note, and current or potential, opportunities for participation in existing statewide or national clinical trial networks.
- **Describe the institutional plan for sustainability and conduct of clinical research beyond the period of this award. Describe existing programs or opportunities for the PI to provide mentorship to develop the clinical research programs further.**
- Note that Texas law allows an institution of higher learning to use its federal indirect cost rate credit to comply with the requirement to 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 (see section 14). However, a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the PI.

Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:

PI's Name, Institutional Commitments

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Salary/Benefits*					
Supplemental Salary					
Research Support					
Administrative Support					
Moving Expenses					

Total =

*** Sources of support for the PI's full salary for the duration of the award must be documented.**

Note: CPRIT acknowledges that the institutional commitments by category may change during the course of the award; however, the total financial commitment to the PI must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

10.2.6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the PI.

10.2.7. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the PI's clinical background and research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed clinical research program by outlining the background and rationale, specific aims, strategies, and projected impact of the focus of the research program. Highlight the innovative aspects of this effort and place it into context with regard to the patient demographics and what pressing problem(s) in cancer will be addressed. Provide the anticipated milestones and expected results. If applicable, describe how the PI will leverage statewide or national clinical research networks, or collaborations with cancer centers in Texas. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI. References cited in this section should be listed in the Publications/References section (see section 10.2.8).**

PIs for CPRIT recruitment awards must include the following signed statement at the end of this section. **Applications that do not contain this signed statement will be returned without review.**

"I understand that I do not need to have made a commitment to <*nominating institution*> before this application has been submitted. However, I also understand that only 1 Texas institution may nominate me for a CPRIT Recruitment or Retention of Clinical Trialists Award, and this is the nomination that I have endorsed. I understand that requests to change the recruiting institution during the recruitment process are not allowed after the application is submitted to CPRIT."

10.2.8. Publications/References (1 Page)

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited in the Research section of the application. Any appropriate citation format is acceptable; official journal abbreviations should be used.

10.2.9. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. Biographical sketches of collaborators established in the research collaborative plan must be uploaded as part of the application. This will be in addition to this 2-page synergy plan (see *IFA*).

10.2.10. Publications

Provide the 5 most significant publications that have resulted from the PI's research efforts. Publications should be uploaded as PDFs of full-text articles. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication ("in press") should be submitted.

10.2.11. Timeline (1 page)

Provide a general outline of anticipated major award outcomes to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

10.2.12. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the PI. If the PI has no current or pending funding, a document stating this must be submitted. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in *Current Funding Opportunities* for Academic Research in CARS.

10.2.13. Research Environment (1 page)

Briefly describe the clinical and research environment available to support the PI's research program, including major clinical programs, core facilities, clinical training programs, and collaborative opportunities.

10.2.14. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the PI, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to cancer research, and a brief overview of the PI's specific aims, if selected, to receive the award. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI.** If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website. PIs are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

Applications that are missing 1 or more of these components; exceed the specified page, word, or budget limits; or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively withdrawn without review.

10.3. Formatting Instructions

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language**: English
- **Document Format**: PDF only
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point)
- **Line Spacing:** Single
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions

- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters are also acceptable if the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

  Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45–67.
- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template.
- **Page Numbering: DO NOT** add page numbers in any of the submitted documents. These will be added automatically by the system when the application is concatenated.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.

11. APPLICATION REVIEW

11.1. Review Process

All eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council using the criteria listed in this RFA. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of PIs. Scientific Review Council members will review applications and provide an individual Overall Evaluation Score that conveys the members' recommendation related to the proposed

recruitment. Applications recommended by the Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review, prioritization, and recommendation to the CPRIT Oversight Committee for approval and funding. Approval is based on an application receiving a positive vote from at least two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8.

The decision of the Scientific Review Council not to recommend an application is final, and such applications may not be resubmitted for a recruitment award. Notification of review decisions is sent to the nominator.

11.1.1. Confidentiality of Review

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT 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 Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

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, Texas Administrative Code RULE §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, 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 Officer, and the Commissioner of the Department 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. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

11.2. Review Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the PI and his or her potential for continued superb performance as a clinical investigator. **Also, of critical importance is the strength of the institutional commitment to the PI. Recruitment efforts are not likely to be successful unless there is a strong commitment from both CPRIT and the host institution.** It is not necessary that a PI agrees to accept the recruitment or retention offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have a strong expectation that recruitment/retention will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. Given funding limitations, it is expected that the nominating institution provides CPRIT with a status of the award acceptance within 60 days of the award notification.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the PI, his/her proposed research program, and his/her long-term contribution to, and impact on, the field of cancer research. Questions to be considered by the reviewers are as follows:

PI: Has the PI made, or do they have the potential to make significant, transformative, and sustained contributions to clinical cancer research? For nominees who will be appointed at the mid-level or established oncologist level, is the PI an established and nationally recognized figure in the field? Has the PI provided mentorship, inspiration, and/or professional training opportunities to junior clinical investigators or medical trainees? Does the PI have a suitable record of leadership of clinical trials, as institutional PI or national leader of trials? Does the PI have established relationships with industry, and experience with industry trials or cooperative group trials? Does the PI have a publication history in suitable journals within cancer research broadly, or within their specialty field, commensurate with their appointment level? Does the PI show evidence of collaborative interaction with others?

Scientific Merit of Proposed Research: Is the research plan comprehensive and well thought out? Does the proposed research program demonstrate innovation, creativity, and feasibility? Does the research program integrate with and/or increase collaborative research efforts and relationships at the nominating institution? Does the proposed research plan align with CPRIT's

goals to expand access to trials for rural regions and to underserved patient populations with limited prior access.

Relevance of PI's Research: Is the proposed research likely to have a significant impact on reducing the burden of cancer in the near term or address unique aspects of the burden of cancer in Texas? Does the research contribute to clinical cancer research? Are there robust and attainable milestones, and is the research likely to result in the initiation or expansion of the trials portfolio and enhanced engagement with industry sponsors, underserved populations, and referring providers?

Research Environment: Does the institution have the necessary facilities, expertise, and resources to support the PI's research program? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the PI be free of major administrative/clinical responsibilities so that he or she can focus on maintaining and enhancing his or her clinical research program? Is there a strong institutional sustainability plan?

12. KEY DATES

RFA SCHEDULE

RFA release: August 5, 2025

Review Cycle Dates

Review Cycle	Cycle Opens	Cycle Closes	Oversight Committee Review	Potential Award Date
26.1	9/9/25	1/20/26	5/20/26	6/1/26
26.2	1/21/26	3/20/26	5/20/26	6/1/26
26.3	3/23/26	5/20/26	8/19/26	8/31/26

13. 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. Awards made under this RFA are not transferable to another institution. 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.

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 specific aims and address plans for the upcoming year. **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.

In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. CPRIT requires funding acknowledgement to include the award grant ID on all print and visual materials that are funded in whole or in part by CPRIT grants. Examples of print and visual materials include, but are not limited to, publications, brochures, pamphlets, project websites, videos, and media materials. Grantees must have written approval from CPRIT prior to the purchase of any equipment. If the equipment is clearly defined in the grantee's budget submitted with the initiating award requirements, then approval of the grant award constitutes "prior approval" for the purchase.

14. 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. 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. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, section 703.11, for specific requirements regarding the demonstration of available funding.

15. CONTACT INFORMATION

15.1. Helpdesk

The Helpdesk will answer queries submitted via email within 1 business day. Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications as well as page limitations, formatting, and how to upload application components/subsections in the appropriate tabs of CARS. Helpdesk staff cannot answer scientific or programmatic questions. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *IFA* document, which provides a step-by-step guide for using CARS.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time
Tel: 866-941-7146
Email: Help@CPRITGrants.org

15.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Scientific and programmatic questions should be directed to the CPRIT Program Director of Academic Research. **Before contacting CPRIT, please refer to the *IFA* document and contact the Helpdesk for any items related to CARS, page limitations, formatting, etc.**

Email: Research@cprit.texas.gov
Website: www.cprit.texas.gov