



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA R-24.1-RFT

**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track
Faculty Members**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,
which will be posted on June 21, 2023**

**Application Receipt Dates:
June 21, 2023-June 20, 2024**

FY 2024

Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ABOUT CPRIT	4
1.1. ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM PRIORITIES	4
2. RATIONALE	5
3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES	6
4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT	7
5. FUNDING INFORMATION	7
6. ELIGIBILITY	8
7. RESUBMISSION POLICY	10
8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA	10
8.1. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	10
8.2. APPLICATION COMPONENTS	11
8.2.1. <i>Summary of Nomination (2,000 characters)</i>	11
8.2.2. <i>Layperson’s Summary (2,000 characters)</i>	11
8.2.3. <i>Summary of Specific Aims and Sub Aims (2,000 characters)</i>	12
8.2.4. <i>Specific Aims and Sub Aims</i>	12
8.2.5. <i>Institutional Commitment (3 pages)</i>	12
8.2.6. <i>Letter of Support from Department Chair (up to 2 pages)</i>	14
8.2.7. <i>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</i>	15
8.2.8. <i>Research (4 pages)</i>	15
8.2.9. <i>Publications/References (1 page)</i>	16
8.2.10. <i>Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)</i>	16
8.2.11. <i>Publications</i>	16
8.2.12. <i>Timeline (1 page)</i>	16
8.2.13. <i>Current and Pending Support</i>	17
8.2.14. <i>Letters of Recommendation</i>	17
8.2.15. <i>Research Environment (1 page)</i>	17
8.2.16. <i>Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)</i>	17
9. APPLICATION REVIEW	17
9.1. REVIEW PROCESS.....	17
9.1.1. <i>Confidentiality of Review</i>	18
9.2. REVIEW CRITERIA	19
10. KEY DATES	20
11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION	20
12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS	21
13. CONTACT INFORMATION	22
13.1. HELPDESK.....	22
13.2. SCIENTIFIC AND PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS	22

RFA VERSION HISTORY

- 6/21/23 RFA release
- 3/21/24 RFA closed for applications. ***CPRIT will not accept applications for any recruitment award RFAs for the remainder of FY24 (Cycles 24.10, 24.11 and 24.12).***

ARCHIVE

1. 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
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan

1.1. 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 2024 priorities:

- Investing in the cancer research capacity of Texas institutions through recruitment of cancer scholars, investment in core facilities, and investment 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 and screening interventions and population research addressing cancer disparities
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials, particularly to regions of the state currently with limited access

2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract very promising investigators who are pursuing their first faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor (first-time, tenure-track faculty members). These individuals must have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation during predoctoral and/or postdoctoral research training, commitment to pursuing cancer research, and exceptional potential for achieving future impact in basic, translational, population-based, or clinical research. Awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research, thereby advancing cancer research and prevention efforts, and promoting economic development in the State of Texas.

The recruitment of outstanding scientists will greatly enhance programs of scientific excellence in cancer research and will position Texas as a leader in the fight against cancer. Applications may address any research topic related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or survivorship. Principal Investigators (PIs) with research programs addressing CPRIT's priority areas for research are encouraged. These include implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening

interventions, computational oncology and analytic methods, research including population-based research addressing cancer disparities, childhood and adolescent cancers, hepatocellular cancer, and expansion of access to innovative clinical trials.

3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award mechanism is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. All PIs are expected to have completed their doctoral and fellowship training and to have clearly demonstrated truly superior ability as evidenced by their accomplishments during training, proposed research plan, publication record, and letters of recommendation. This CPRIT-supported initiative is designed to enhance innovative programs of excellence by providing research support for promising, early-stage investigators **seeking their first tenure-track position.**

CPRIT will provide start-up funding for newly independent investigators, with the goal of augmenting and expanding the institution's efforts in cancer research. PIs will be expected to develop research projects within the sponsoring institution. Projects should be appropriate for a newly independent investigator and should foster the development of preliminary data that can be used to prepare applications for future independent research project grants to further both the investigator's research career and the CPRIT mission. The institution will be expected to work with each newly recruited research faculty member to design and execute a faculty career development plan consistent with his or her research emphasis. Relevance to cancer research and to CPRIT's priority areas are important evaluation criteria for CPRIT funding.

Applications nominating individuals who are well prepared to pursue careers in patient-oriented research and who have demonstrated exceptional potential to lead innovative discovery campaigns through conduct of clinical trials are appropriate for this mechanism and are encouraged.

Additionally, population research that addresses the burden of cancer in Texas is a priority for CPRIT. Applications nominating individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability to lead innovative research programs involving any component across the continuum of cancer prevention and control research are appropriate for this mechanism and are highly encouraged.

Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of “CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research,” and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world’s best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the Recruitment of a First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member (RFTTFM) Award must therefore be complemented by a strong institutional commitment to the PI’s career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see [section 8.2.5](#)) and 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. The financial commitments made to the PI for his or her research program by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This award is up to 5 years and is not renewable, although individuals may apply for other future CPRIT funding as appropriate. Grant funds of up to \$2,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested. Applicants are encouraged to tailor the budget as appropriate to the exigencies of the project; grant funds totaling less than \$2,000,000 for the term of the award are acceptable if warranted by the scope of the research. Funding is to be used by the PI to support his or her research program. The award request may include indirect costs of up to 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT will make every effort to be flexible in the timing for disbursement of funds; recipients will be asked at the beginning of each year for an estimate of their needs for the year. 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. Scholars may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

Funds from this CPRIT award may not be used for salary support of this PI or to construct or renovate laboratory space.

Note: In the event of insufficient funds, specific recruitment categories may be eliminated (example REI/RRS/RFTTFM) and nominations for specific categories may be closed for the remaining cycles of the fiscal year. Additionally, depending on the availability of funds, review cycles may be reduced, and/or the number of applications per institution may be capped, and recommended nominations submitted in response to this Request for Applications (RFA) during the current receipt period may be announced and awarded either in the current fiscal year (prior to August 31, 2024) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2024).

6. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any not-for-profit institution that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. A public or private company is not eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- PIs must be nominated by the president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean of a Texas-based public or private institution of higher education, including academic health institutions. 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 annual limit on the number of grant submissions by institutions has been set.
- A PI who has already accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the PI for a recruitment award is not eligible for a recruitment award, as an investment by CPRIT is obviously not necessary. 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 are often 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 a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent, **and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment.** The PI must devote at least 70% time to research activities. PIs whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the PI must **not** hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. PIs holding non-tenure-track appointments at the rank of assistant professor are **not** eligible for this award. Examples of such appointments include research assistant professor, adjunct research assistant professor, assistant professor (non-tenure track).
- The PI may or may not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted and may be nominated for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training or at another Texas institution.
- Applications nominating a PI for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training that do not clearly demonstrate a subsequent career pathway to independence for the PI will not be looked upon with favor.
- Successful PIs will be offered tenure-track academic positions at the rank of assistant professor.
- 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 11](#) and [section 12](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.texas.gov.

7. RESUBMISSION POLICY

Resubmissions will not be accepted for the RFTTFM Award mechanism. Any nomination for the RFTTFM Award that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. If a nomination was administratively rejected prior to review, it can be resubmitted in the following cycles.

8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

8.1. 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 the institution's president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean. 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.

Dependent upon available funding, applications will be accepted on a continuous basis throughout FY24.

In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the 20th of each month and will be reviewed by the 15th day of the following month. For an application to be considered for review during the cycle, that application must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time. In the event that the closing date falls on Saturday or Sunday, applications may be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time the following Monday. CPRIT will not extend the submission deadline. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

8.2. 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 Instructions for Applicants (IFA) document that will be available when the application receipt system opens. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

8.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,000 characters)

Provide a brief summary of the nomination. Include the PI's name, organization from which the PI is being recruited, and also the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the PI will hold the faculty position.

8.2.2. 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 the field of cancer research, early detection, prevention, treatment, or survivorship.

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.

8.2.3. Summary of Specific Aims and Sub Aims (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, and significance and impact on the field and cancer research.

8.2.4. Specific Aims and Sub Aims

List specific aims and sub aims to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the PI.** These aims/sub aims will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Refer to the template specific aims and sub aims document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

8.2.5. Institutional Commitment (3 pages)

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the RFTTFM Award must therefore be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the PI's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award.

The following guidelines should be followed when documenting the institutional commitment to the PI:

- The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean and 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. 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 across the course of the CPRIT award.

- 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 a career transition award (K99/R00) or 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.
- 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, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the PI is expected to provide salary support from grants during the award period, the institutional commitment must identify the source for salary support in the event grant support is not available. Note that a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the PI.
- Include a brief job description for the PI should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the PI including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel, access to students, space assignment, and access to shared equipment, and discuss all other agreements between the institution and the PI.
- 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. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on cancer research.
- 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 12](#)). 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					
Research Support					
Administrative Support					
Moving Expenses					

Total =

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.

8.2.6. Letter of Support from Department Chair (up to 2 pages)

Provide the letter of support from and signed by the chair of the department to which the PI is being recruited. The following information should be included in the letter:

Recruitment Activities: CPRIT is committed to increasing the life sciences infrastructure in Texas via the recruitment of exceptional cancer researchers, as well as expanding research resources. The letter should provide a description of the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to the nomination of this PI. 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—including impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion, if applicable—and the expected impact of the recruitment on the institution (or department) and the burden of cancer in Texas (if applicable).

Caliber of PI: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the PI and justification of the nomination of the PI by the institution. CPRIT recognizes that there is variability in the metrics of impact applicable across the continuum of cancer research. For example, in some disciplines, research findings—although highly impactful on the field—are less likely to be published in the highest ranked journals, ie, *Science*, *Cell*, or *Nature* series. Thus, it is incumbent

upon the institution to describe the impact of a nominee’s work, including paradigm-shifting, practice-changing, or influence on public policy, population health behavior, or cancer disparities.

Description of PI Duties and Certification of 70% Time Commitment to Research: While scholars may engage in direct patient care activities and/or have some administrative or teaching duties, at least 70% of the PI’s time must be available for research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding. The certification that 70% time will be spent on research must be included.

The letter of support from the department chair must also do the following:

1. Describe how the PI will be independent and autonomous in developing his or her research program at the institution.
2. Present a plan for mentoring that includes the design and execution of a faculty career development plan for the PI.

8.2.7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the PI. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication (“in press”) should be cited.

8.2.8. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the PI’s research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, specific aims, 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 what pressing problem in cancer will be addressed. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI. References cited in this section should be included in the Publications/References section (see 8.2.9).**

PIs for CPRIT Scholar 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 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.”

8.2.9. 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.

8.2.10. 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. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research, such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on 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 the 2-page synergy plan (see IFA).

8.2.11. Publications

Provide the 3 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.

8.2.12. 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.

8.2.13. 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.

8.2.14. Letters of Recommendation

Provide 3 letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to detail the PI's academic and scientific research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research.

8.2.15. Research Environment (1 page)

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

8.2.16. 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.

9. APPLICATION REVIEW

9.1. Review Process

All eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council using the criteria listed in this RFA. Applications may be submitted continuously in response to this RFA but will generally be reviewed on a monthly basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review

Council. 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, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

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.

9.1.1. 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, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

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.

9.2. 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 cancer researcher. **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 offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have an expectation that the recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. It is the expectation that the nominating institution provides CPRIT with a status of the award acceptance as soon as status is known.

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

Quality of the PI: Has the PI demonstrated academic excellence? Has the PI received excellent predoctoral and postdoctoral training? Does the PI show exceptional potential for achieving future impact on basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research in the future? Has the PI demonstrated a commitment to cancer research? Has the PI demonstrated independence or the potential for independence?

Scientific Merit of Proposed Research: Is the research plan comprehensive and well thought out? Does the proposed research program demonstrate innovation, creativity, and feasibility? Will it have a significant impact on the field of cancer research? Will the proposed research generate preliminary data that can be used for the preparation of applications for future independent research project grants?

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 basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research?

Letters of Recommendation: Do the letters of recommendation detail the PI's academic and clinical research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research?

Research Environment: Does the institution have the necessary facilities, expertise, and resources to support the PI's research? 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 growing his or her research? Has the institution identified a mentor who will design and execute a faculty career development plan for the PI?

10. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA Release June 21, 2023

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. 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 [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

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 [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

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, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the specific aims and address plans for the upcoming year. 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. Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

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.

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. 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, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#), for specific requirements regarding the demonstration of available funding.

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 members 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

13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT Program, including questions regarding this or other funding opportunities, should be directed to the CPRIT Director of Academic Research.

Email: Research@cprit.texas.gov

Website: www.cprit.texas.gov