



CIAPM RFP 2018 – Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on July 23, 2018

Where does the funding for this request for proposals (RFP) come from?

Funding for this RFP is provided by the State of California.

Does the RFP limit the number of proposals each institution may submit?

This is not a limited submission. This RFP does not limit the number of proposals each institution may submit or otherwise be included in as a partner organization. However, not more than one project will be awarded per host institution or per principal investigator.

What institutions are eligible to serve as host institutions?

The RFP requires that application teams at a minimum include co-principal investigators from two types of institutions: 1) public or private academic or non-profit institutions and 2) community or county health institutions that provide cancer care for populations that experience cancer health disparities. An institution that fits into either category may serve as the host institution.

What counts as a community or county health institution that provides cancer care?

Examples of eligible institutions are community hospitals, county health agencies, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that provide cancer care. CIAPM does not intend to be prescriptive of qualifying institutions. Please direct any questions to ciapm@ucsf.edu.

How can I find collaborators for my proposal?

CIAPM recommends that teams seeking project partners directly contact potential partners to gauge their interest. The CIAPM team is also available to facilitate connections, whether for the development of proposals, the strengthening of proposals after the concept proposal submission deadline, or otherwise. The CIAPM website includes a page for people to post information about research partners they are seeking; see <http://www.ciapm.org/contacts-research-partners>. If you are interested in having your information posted to this page, please send the following information to ciapm@ucsf.edu: 1) Contact name, 2) Email, 3) Institution/employer, 4) Interest (50-word limit), and 5) Background (200-word limit). Any other inquiries about how the CIAPM team can help facilitate collaborations can also be sent to ciapm@ucsf.edu.

How and when should a Letter of Intent be submitted?

Letters of Intent should be submitted by email to ciapm@ucsf.edu anytime on or before July 27 (i.e., before midnight). PDFs are preferred but any commonly readable format is acceptable.

What cancer(s) should my proposal address?

The RFP is focused on “commonly diagnosed, high prevalence, or high mortality cancers” and provides examples. The examples are not intended to be exhaustive. No proposal will be automatically excluded based on its cancer focus. The Selection Committee will take into consideration the degree to which a proposal’s focus fits the aforementioned description during its selection process.

What cancer health disparities should my proposal address?

According to the National Cancer Institute, cancer health disparities are differences in cancer measures such as incidence (new cases); mortality (deaths); morbidity (cancer-related health complications); survivorship, including quality of life after cancer treatment; burden of cancer or related health conditions; screening rates; and stage at diagnosis. Cancer disparities can also be seen when outcomes are improving overall but the improvements are delayed in some groups relative to other groups. Although disparities are often considered in the context of race/ethnicity, other population groups may experience cancer health disparities, including groups defined by disability, gender/sexual identity, geographic location, income, education, and other characteristics. For more, including examples of cancer health disparities, see <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/disparities>.

To the extent possible, please provide data to describe any cancer health disparity your proposal seeks to address.

Does my proposal need to include an “omics” data type if it includes behavior/lifestyle factors?

The RFP (section IV.D.3) states that demonstration projects should integrate two or more type of “omics” and includes as examples genomics, exposomics, proteomics, pharmacogenomics, and behavior/lifestyle factors (behavioromics). The intent of the RFP is to include several data types—the more the better. A proposal does not need to include any particular data type. A proposal that includes multiple behavior/lifestyle/environmental data types (e.g., air quality measures and social determinants) would be considered eligible though it would be viewed more favorably if it additionally included a biological/molecular data type. Similarly, a proposal that includes multiple biological/molecular data types (e.g., genomics and metabolomics) would be considered eligible but would be strengthened by the addition of behavior/lifestyle/environmental data.

What are the expectations for the economic analysis included in my proposal?

The RFP (section IV.D.7) includes an “economic impact/value analysis,” and asks for a description of the anticipated utility of the project and how an economic impact analysis will be performed to determine the impact of a proposed intervention versus other interventions or standards of care. No analysis type is specified; proposals may, for example, include a retrospective analysis, a prospective analysis, or a value and impact assessment. While a formal quantitative analysis is not required, it would generally be viewed more favorably than an informal qualitative analysis.

What are the restrictions on proposal budgets?

Proposals should not include any indirect costs. CIAPM has not identified any additional budget item restrictions but reserves the right to make determinations on a case-by-case basis. If a concept proposal includes a budget item that CIAPM deems to be ineligible for use of CIAPM funds, the CIAPM team will contact the project team and ask for the item to be excluded if the team is invited to submit a full proposal. The inclusion of a budget item deemed to be ineligible will not adversely impact the proposal in the concept proposal selection process. Please direct any questions about specific budget items to ciapm@ucsf.edu.

Should I include in my proposal the development of a data sharing platform?

The RFP describes that funds will be available for awarded project teams to examine and potentially select and use a common data-sharing platform. This step will occur following the selection of demonstration projects; selected project teams will work together to explore what is possible to share across projects and potentially scale beyond them. This step will occur regardless of how many awarded projects include their own data sharing platform components, so proposals may include the development and use of common data sharing platforms across project partners. If so, please describe why this is beneficial to the project, how it is distinctive, and whether it might be scalable, and include funding for the data sharing component in the budget. However, since there is limited space to explain your project in the concept proposal, it is advisable to not devote too much of it to the data sharing component.

What factors will the Selection Committee consider during the final decision process?

The authorizing statute identifies a breadth of possible focus areas for proposals to improve cancer care for patient populations that suffer from cancer health disparities, as listed in the RFP under sections IV.B and V.A. These focus areas and selection criteria are reflective of the diverse fields and goals that comprise precision medicine. In order to maximize the overall impact of the funded portfolio of projects, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) asks that the Selection Committee select a balanced portfolio that represents diversity in several areas, including but not limited to, approaches, disease areas, research focus areas, patient populations, host institutions, and partners during its deliberations. Thus, while selecting highly meritorious proposals based on final overall impact scores of the individual proposals, the Selection Committee will take into consideration these factors when making funding recommendations to OPR. Finally, as required by [statute](#), the Selection Committee will ensure the inclusion of public institutions in both northern and southern California. For additional information, please see http://www.ciapm.org/sites/ciapm.org/files/RFP_2018_review_process.pdf.

Will project teams that include individuals/institutions that have already been granted CIAPM funds be viewed less favorably than others?

No. Prior receipt of CIAPM funds will not be a consideration in the demonstration project selection process.