



FLINN FOUNDATION

Seed Grants to Promote Translational Research 2022

Helping Arizona research institutions translate innovations and discoveries into improved patient care



The Flinn Foundation's Seed Grants to Promote Translational Research Program aligns with Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, specifically its second goal: To "increase the ability of research-performing institutions to turn bench research results into improved disease and illness prevention, detection, and treatment."

The Flinn Foundation seeks proposals from teams with innovative solutions to well-defined and compelling clinical needs in the areas of precision medicine, diagnostics, devices, therapeutics, and health-care-delivery processes. Proposed projects must have reached a point where they have significant potential to turn bench results into viable products or systems impacting patients in Arizona and beyond.

Each supported team will use the 18-month grant period to de-risk its product/process, refine its design, and/or acquire key validation data and stakeholder feedback—and secure, or have a well-defined plan to secure, new sources of funding to advance toward positive patient impact.

Who Should Apply

This program supports teams that include both scientists and clinicians affiliated with Arizona-based research institutions and/or health-care systems. Funded projects must focus on bringing new products and services to benefit patients.

Eligibility

- Principal investigator must be employed by an Arizona-based academic- or medical-research institution or health-care system, which will also serve as the PI's grant administrator.
- PI and project team must have the blend of skills (e.g., scientific, clinical, engineering, business, regulatory) to ensure that proposal goals can be met.
- Proposal must include a letter of support from the vice president of research or equivalent at the PI's institution.
- Project's new product and/or process must address a clearly defined, compelling clinical need.
- PI must describe a clear path to move from the lab to pre-commercialization phase.

- PI must identify the proposed use of grant funds, including all matching funds.
- PI must agree to participate in grant programming provided by the Flinn Foundation.
- Previous Flinn Foundation grantees may apply as PI if all previous grants are closed.

Program Benefits

- \$100,000 grant over 18 months. (At the end of the grant cycle, up to two of the most successful projects will receive up to an additional \$100,000 grant over 12 months.)
- Opportunities to connect with experienced research/industry mentors, plus quarterly progress reviews and check-ins.
- Access to workshops to enhance teams' skillsets in product development and commercialization.
- Referrals to programs, resources, and product-development/product-launch experts.
- Membership during the grant period on Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee, a body of high-level bioscience champions.

Use of Funds

The PI's home institution will administer the grant; up to 10% of funds are allowable for administrative or institutional fees (indirect costs).

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Shepherding a research project from the first lab experiment to real-world applications and positive patient outcomes—even for the most experienced teams, it's profoundly challenging. Our translational seed-grants program accelerates the process, with funding, yes, but with guidance and invaluable connections, too.”

Mary O'Reilly, Ph.D.
VICE PRESIDENT,
BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH
PROGRAMS
FLINN FOUNDATION



Flinn Foundation funding can cover or offset expenditures such as:

- Program-related lab expenses (materials, support staff, analysis).
- Prototype development, testing, and validation.
- Animal-model tests.
- Publication of data.
- Development/refinement of business plan and customer exploration.
- Development of proposals for follow-on funding from Small Business Innovation Research funds, National Institutes of Health grants, angel investments, philanthropic funds, etc.

The Foundation may permit other uses of funds if deemed appropriate in the context of program goals and the nature of the team’s research. Funds may not support salaries, benefits, or other compensation of the PI or co-PI(s), or be applied toward prior debt.

Program Design

This program helps teams de-risk research and position themselves to launch a new startup company or seek partners to license their discoveries. As noted above, the program offers programming beyond funding:

- Connections with research/industry coaches/consultants.

- Workshops to help the team develop translational skills, e.g.,
 - Stakeholder analysis,
 - De-risking projects and the Killer Experiment,
 - Designing experiments and workflows for FDA submission,
 - Prototyping and scale-up, designing for manufacturing,
 - Understanding investments and financing, and
 - Planning and prep for securing next round of financial support.
- Referrals to key programs, resources, and personnel.

Program Expectations

Expectations of Project Teams

Selected teams will report quarterly and regularly present their case to scientific and industry leaders. By the end of the grant period, successful teams will significantly de-risk their product/process, refine their design, and/or acquire critical validation data. They will secure or have a well-defined plan to secure new funding to carry their project forward to real-world impact.

Ideally, prior to the start of the grant period, the PI should have IRB approval and a plan for addressing intellectual-property issues with their institution, including ownership and licensing of technology.

Expectations of the Institution

The PI's home institution must provide a letter of support signed by the Vice President of Research or their designee. The institution should have worked with the PI to secure IP or be in the process of doing so, with a path to agreement on licensing or ownership of the IP.

How To Apply

The RFP and application will be posted on July 1, 2021 at www.flinn.org/seedgrants. The application will close on December 3, 2021.

Proposal Review

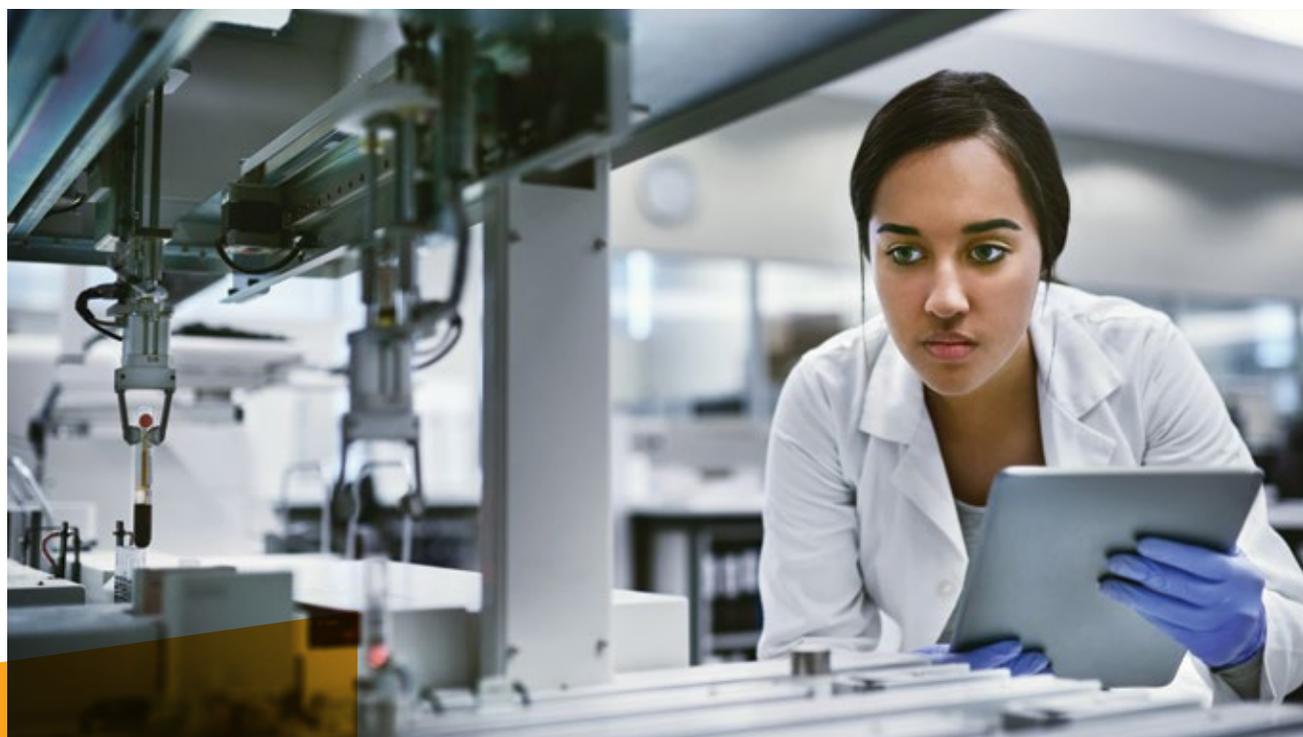
Proposals will be evaluated by an independent review committee of academic and industry experts appointed by the Flinn Foundation. The Foundation's Board of Directors will provide final authorization of recommended projects. Constructive feedback will be offered to all applicants.

Questions?

Contact Mary O'Reilly, Ph.D., Vice President, Bioscience Research Programs: moreilly@flinn.org; or Juliet Gomez, Bioscience Program Manager: jgomez@flinn.org.

Critical Dates

Application Opens	July 1, 2021
Informational Webinar	September 1 (2:30 p.m.)
Office Hours	October 6 (2:00-4:00 p.m.) November 3 (12:00-2:00 p.m.) December 1 (8:00-11:00 a.m.)
Application Closes	December 3 (5:00 p.m.)
Awardees Announced	March 8, 2022



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