



Frequently Asked Questions

Flinn Foundation Seed Grants to Promote Translational Research 2022

Do you have samples of previously funded projects that you can share?

Descriptions of previously funded projects can be found on the seed grants webpage: www.flinn.org/seedgrants.

Can a faculty member at the same university be a participant on more than one submission?

Yes, a faculty member can participate on more than one submission.

What is the format for the program application? For instance, the number of pages or questions to be addressed.

When you register on the application site, you may review the entire application to see the questions without filling in the boxes: <https://flinnfoundation-r3dtp.smapply.io/>

Are the reviewers under Non-Disclosure Agreements?

Yes, each reviewer signs an NDA/Confidentiality agreement.

Who owns the Intellectual Property coming out of a Flinn Foundation grant?

You or the institution owns the IP before, during, and after the Flinn Foundation grant. The Foundation does not take any ownership or equity in the project.

What are the page lengths of each section?

The entire completed application should range between 8-10 pages. The clearer the information, the more helpful it will be to the review panel.

Can you start an application to see the format without submitting it?

Yes, the only applications that will be considered for the grants are those completed and submitted by the deadline of December 3 at 5 p.m.

Is it OK to have some overlap with other funding (active or pending) from NIH/NSF?

The Flinn grant is in addition to any funding you have already or will receive from other sources. Care must be taken to clearly distinguish what specific activities/budget items are being paid for with the Flinn funds.

How are potential reviewer conflicts addressed?

The reviewers self-select a conflict button when reviewing applications. A note is sent to the application administrator letting her know of the conflict. However, the reviewers will be geographically diverse, and will most likely not have any previous knowledge of the submitted proposals.

Can you please explain the relative importance of commercialization potential as a percentage of total evaluation?

This program is seeking projects that are addressing well-defined clinical needs in the areas of precision medicine, diagnostics, devices, therapeutics, and health-care delivery processes. These are projects that within 4-7 years, for example, have real opportunities to positively impact patients.

As such, having a clear line of sight on how your team plans to make this happen is important. This is not necessarily a detailed business plan, but demonstrating to the reviewers and building into your project plan the steps that will need to be taken and what will be done to get your innovation there.

From a Foundation perspective, we are seeking projects that will be impactful. It is excellent if your innovation has the potential to grow into a viable commercial venture, however the Foundation is also interested in open-source projects which build in plans for effective dissemination and adoption of their innovation.

Should the research be from different institutions?

The focus is on the team and having a group of collaborators with the right blend of skills to move your project forward. In general, because these types of projects are complex and seeking solutions for clinical issues, it is not unusual for projects to be presented that have both academic research and clinical partners working together.

This would be in addition to having access to regulatory, business, tech transfer, and engineering advisors.

Does the innovation have to be a potential commercial product? Or can we do clinical studies that, for instance, develop a rehabilitation protocol with an existing device?

The innovation does need to be a product or platform. Generally, with associated IP.

In the event there is not a VP of Research, what are the other options for the letter of support?

The letter of support must come from the VP of Research, their designee, or a person of equivalent standing in an organization who has authority to commit the institution's support of the applicant and award administration.

Are you looking for projects from academic institutions or from startup companies?

This grants program is targeting academic research and medical institutions and not commercial entities. However, a research team can have commercial partners.

Can the grant go towards salaries other than the PI, such as assistants or technologists?

Grant funds cannot be used for PI and co-PI salaries. It can be used for support staff, for example lab assistant time for time spent on the project.