

NOTICE OF FUND AVAILABILITY (NOFA) – GRANTS

NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM:

New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research
Exploratory Research Grant

NOFA REFERENCE NO.

CSCR17ERG

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS WILL BE USED:

To fund research activities that hold promise of developing effective interventions and cures for paralysis and other consequences of spinal cord injury and disease.

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE GRANT PROGRAM:

\$6,500,000.00

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Terms and Conditions for the Administration of Grants.
 2. General and specific Grant Compliance requirements issued by the Granting Agency.
 3. Applicable Federal Cost Principles relating to the Applicant.
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GROUP OR ENTITIES WHICH MAY APPLY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Health Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City/Municipality | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Qualified Health Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NJ Based and Operated Research Organization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Please refer to the NJCSCR Research Guidelines__ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Corporation | |
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QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED BY APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT:

Principal investigators must be affiliated with a New Jersey State academic institution, research organization, public or private agency or other entity with demonstrated capability to conduct research responsibly. Unaffiliated individuals will not be funded. Individuals of any nationality or citizenship status may apply, provided they are employed by or affiliated with a qualified New Jersey State organization/institution.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

1. The applicant requests a copy of the RFA from the Information Contact referenced below.
 2. The applicant submits a Letter of Intent, inquiry, or concept paper to the Information Contact referenced below. This may be submitted via an email.
 3. The Program Management Office will make a grant application available to all “Eligible” agencies in the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) (www.sage.nj.gov).
 4. The agency will submit a grant application in accordance with the RFA.
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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Traynor
New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research
New Jersey Department of Health
225 East State Street
2nd Floor West
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

TELEPHONE: 609-292-4055
FAX: 609-943-4213
E-MAIL: NJCSCR@doh.state.nj.us

DATE ON WHICH APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE:

August 1, 2016

SAGE PROGRAM NAME:

Spinal Cord - Exploratory Research Grant 2017

DEADLINE BY WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED:

December 12, 2016

DATE BY WHICH APPLICANT SHALL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER THEY WILL RECEIVE FUNDS:

June 30, 2017

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(Continued)

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ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE PROVIDED BY THE DIVISION:

The purpose of the Exploratory Research Grant award is to enable independent investigators to apply their specific expertise to spinal cord research. The award is designed to provide the resources necessary to acquire preliminary data that will allow the successful applicant to obtain continued support from the NJCSCR, NIH, and/or other funding agencies. It is specifically intended to facilitate the application of innovative ideas from other areas of science to the challenges of spinal cord injury and repair.

In addition to scientific merit and relevance, consideration will be given to collaborative proposals that are inter-institutional and/or inter-state in nature. Priority will also be given to investigators outside the field who bring their expertise into spinal cord injury research. Successful applicants will have familiarized themselves with state-of-the-art knowledge necessary to put the proposed study into the appropriate spinal cord context.

In the field of spinal cord injury research, as elsewhere in the biomedical sciences, a constant infusion of new ideas, techniques, and points of view is essential to maintain its vitality, foster discovery and stimulate innovation. Inherent in the concept of innovation is the departure from current thinking or practice. Innovative projects are unlikely to be supported by substantial preliminary data, and for that and other reasons will necessarily be more speculative than conventional projects. These are high-risk, high reward projects that may lead to breakthroughs, the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models or applications, or other insights that could have major impact on the field of spinal cord injury research.

The Exploratory Research Grant Program is intended to provide support for the early and conceptual stages of such investigations. Through the use of the Exploratory Research Grant Program, the NJCSCR will encourage the pursuit of novel scientific ideas, model systems, tools, agents, targets and technologies that have the potential to substantially advance spinal cord injury research and open new areas of inquiry.

Applications for Exploratory Research Grant awards should describe projects that are exploratory and novel, and are clearly distinct from projects typically supported through more traditional mechanisms. These studies should break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications. Appropriate justification for the proposed work can be provided through literature citations, data from other sources, or, when available, from investigator-generated data.

Two-year non-renewable awards are offered to applicants at a maximum funding level of up to \$100,000 per year including direct and indirect costs, (10% maximum for the latter). All awards are made through one-year contracts. Each funding award within the two-year period will be contingent upon the availability of funds. Second year support for all Exploratory Research Grants is contingent upon the submission and successful review of a Progress Report.

For full Program details please refer to the NJCSCR 2017 Research Guidelines at www.state.nj.us/health/spinalcord/
