



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS**

RFA R-12-RRS-1

**Recruitment of
Rising Stars**

FY 2012

Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2011 — August 31, 2012

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RFA VERSION HISTORY

Rev 9/1/11 RFA release

1. ABOUT CPRIT

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT); CPRIT may issue \$3 billion in general obligation bonds over 10 years to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research, thereby enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and 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 this State; and
- Continue to develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan by promoting the development and coordination of effective and efficient statewide public and private policies, programs, and services related to cancer and by encouraging cooperative, comprehensive, and complementary planning among the public, private, and volunteer sectors involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CPRIT will foster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of projects relevant to cancer research. This RFA solicits applications to recruit outstanding investigators who are at a relatively early stage in their career to the State of Texas. CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to directly and indirectly benefit subsequent cancer research efforts, cancer public health policy, or the continuum of cancer care—from prevention to treatment and cure. To fulfill this vision, applications may address any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure.

3. MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

Using CPRIT funding as a springboard, the State of Texas seeks to attract individuals whose work has outstanding merit, who show a marked capacity for self-direction, and who demonstrate the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research (“Rising Stars”) to relocate to Texas. This funding mechanism will provide the necessary support to allow awardees to expand their promising careers and increase an institution’s competitive advantage

in negotiations with the candidate while advancing economic development and cancer research efforts in the State of Texas.

4. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. Having already demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments during their initial years of independent research, Rising Stars represent a unique blend of scholastic aptitude, scientific rigor, and commitment to exploring transformational research through the development of creative ideas with high potential. Funding will be given for exceptional candidates who will develop new research methods and techniques in the life, physical, engineering, or computational sciences and apply them to solving outstanding problems in cancer research that have been inadequately addressed or for which there may be an absence of an established paradigm or technical framework. Candidates who have not historically worked in cancer research but are proposing creative hypotheses and research plans for this field are encouraged to apply. Similarly, candidates pursuing original and potentially high-impact basic science programs that have the potential to be translated toward clinical investigations or provide "proof of principle" are also encouraged to apply. Candidates are expected to be approximately at the career level of a late assistant/early associate professor or equivalent. This funding mechanism considers expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience vital metrics for guiding CPRIT's investment in that person's originality, insight, and potential.

5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This is a 5-year award with an opportunity for renewal after the term expires. Grant funds of up to \$500,000/year may be awarded (\$2.5 million for the 5-year period.) In addition, a one-time award of up to \$2 million may be made in the first year of the grant. Grant funds may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space. Consistent with the statutory mandate that the recipient institution demonstrate that it has funds equivalent to one-half of the total grant award amount dedicated to the individual recruited, a total institutional commitment of up to \$2.25 million will be required. The institutional commitment can be made on a year-by-year basis and may be fulfilled by demonstrating funds dedicated to salary support and endowment for the individual recruited as well as expenses for laboratory renovation or relocation to Texas.

Grant funding from other sources that the recruited individual may bring with him or her to the institution may also be counted toward the amount necessary for the institutional commitment.

6. KEY DATES

RFA

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| RFA release | September 1, 2011 |
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Application

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| Online application opens | September 1, 2011, 7 a.m. Central Time |
| Application due | None; continuous receipt |
| Application review | As necessary |

Award

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Award notification | As necessary |
| Anticipated start date | Negotiable |

7. ELIGIBILITY

- Applications must be submitted by the president, provost, 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 candidate.
- A candidate may be nominated by only one institution. If more than one institution wishes to recruit a given candidate, negotiations as to who will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- Candidates who have already accepted a position at the recruiting institution are not eligible for a recruitment award. An investment by CPRIT was obviously not necessary. Such individuals may, however, apply for other CPRIT grant awards, as appropriate.
- The candidate must have a doctoral degree, including M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.D.S., D.M.D., D.O., D.V.M., or equivalent, and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment.
- At the time of the application, the candidate must 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 not primarily based in Texas. The candidate must not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted.

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- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although the ability to comply with these contractual requirements is not necessary 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 10. All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

8. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the candidate 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 candidate. 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 candidate agree to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have some reasonable expectation that recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. Applications submitted in response to this RFA will be reviewed on a continuous basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council, and council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of candidates. No annual limits on the number of potential award recipients have been set.

8.1. Confidentiality of Review

Each application review is conducted completely confidentially, and all council members are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All council members and ad hoc reviewers will be non-Texas residents and operate under strict conflict of interest prohibitions. Under no circumstances should institutional personnel and/or individual candidates initiate contact with any member involved in the review process (with the exception of members of the CPRIT Scientific Review Office), the CPRIT executive director, or any member of the CPRIT Oversight Committee regarding the status or substance of the application. Violations of this prohibition will result in the administrative withdrawal of the application. Any communication regarding the application should be directed to the CPRIT HelpDesk and/or CPRIT's Scientific Review Office.

9. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

9.1. Online Application Receipt System

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on September 1, 2011 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted at this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** Applications may be submitted by the institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean. Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.

9.2. Application Submission Deadline

This mechanism is not governed by an application deadline. Applications will be reviewed on a continuous basis.

9.3. Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of the online application.

9.3.1. Contact Information

Provide all required nominator and candidate identification information.

9.3.2. Recruitment Activities/Institutional Commitment (2 pages)

Describe the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to nomination of this candidate. Describe the institutional commitment to the candidate, including total salary, institutional support of salary, endowment or other support, space, and all other agreements between the institution and the candidate. The institutional commitment must state the total award amount requested. Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestige title "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be encouraged strongly to use this title on letterhead, business cards, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas. Provide a brief job description for the candidate should recruitment be successful. This information should be supplied in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean. While clinical scholars may engage in direct patient care activities, at least 70 percent of the candidate's time must be available for research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding.

9.3.3. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the candidate's research accomplishments, and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, goals, and projected impact of the focus of the laboratory. Highlight the innovative aspects of this effort, and place it into context with regard to what pressing problem in cancer research will be addressed. This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate.

Candidates 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 one Texas institution may nominate me for a CPRIT Recruitment Award, and this is the nomination that I have endorsed. Requests to change the recruiting institution during the recruitment process are inappropriate."

9.3.4. Publications

Provide the five most significant publications that have resulted from the candidate's research efforts.

9.3.5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the candidate.

9.3.6. Current and Pending Support

Describe the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate.

9.3.7. Descriptive Biography (1 page)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the candidate, including his or her accomplishments, and a brief overview of the candidate's goals if selected to receive the award. This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be publicly available on CPRIT's website. Candidates are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

9.3.8. Size Limitation of Application Material (10MB)

The total size of all application components should not exceed 10MB. Applications that exceed this limit will be returned without review.

Applications that are missing one 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 rejected without review.

10. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT research awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, and terms relating to intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's administrative rules, which are available at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

All CPRIT awards will be made to institutions, not to individuals. Awards made under this RFA are not transferable to another institution.

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon receipt of these reports. Forms and instructions will be made available at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

11.1. HelpDesk

HelpDesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via e-mail will be answered within 1 business day. HelpDesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding the scientific aspects of applications.

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| Dates of Operation: | Available starting September 1, 2011 (excluding public holidays) |
| Hours of Operation: | Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time |
| Telephone: | 866-941-7146 |
| E-mail: | ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org |

11.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Scientific Review Office:

Telephone: 512-305-8491
E-mail: ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org
Web site: www.cprit.state.tx.us