



COWBOYS FOR CANCER RESEARCH: FY2023 PILOT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

New Mexico State University announces the availability of a pilot project funding opportunity for NMSU faculty and staff through the Cowboys for Cancer Research organization in Las Cruces, NM. The purpose of this grant program is to encourage the development of investigator-initiated research projects involving basic, preclinical, clinical, and translational cancer research, and the acquisition of specialized instrumentation supporting collaborative cancer research.

Research projects that focus on understanding the causes and developing new cures for cancer are invited, and can include, but are not limited to, investigations in the areas of cancer biology, discovery of cancer biomarkers, molecular targets, novel drugs, new technologies for detection, diagnosis and drug delivery, cancer epidemiology and prevention, cancer health disparities, overcoming barriers to cancer screening and cancer care, cancer behavioral sciences, and comparative effectiveness. Single and multiple principal investigator (PI/MPI) applications are allowed. Projects that involve multiple departments and colleges and those involving collaboration with investigators from the University of New Mexico Cancer Center with a high potential for transformational discoveries and future competitive external funding are encouraged.

Specialized equipment/instrumentation that supports cancer research is also eligible for full or co-funding through C4CR. Requests for equipment/instrumentation must include justification based on collaborative multi-investigator use for cancer research, a management plan including description of process for investigator access and training, and details of matching funds applied to the purchase (strongly encouraged). Researchers previously funded by the C4CR program are eligible to apply, but are also required to submit a progress report.

Note: Grantees may be requested to participate in and/or publicly present research outcomes in association with future C4CR events, and provide progress reports/updates upon request.

Funding Amount: The budget can vary and therefore interested applicants are encouraged to discuss budget considerations with Dr. Jessica P. Houston prior to proposal submission.

Submission Deadline: Sunday October 30, 2023 by 5:00 pm

Email Address for Submissions: cindyram@nmsu.edu

Contacts: Jessica P. Houston (jph@nmsu.edu) for scientific/technical/application/budget queries; Cindy Ramirez (cindyram@nmsu.edu) for administrative/submission queries.



Proposal Instructions

Principal Investigators are to submit all of the required information in the order listed below, as a single PDF by email directly to **Cindy Ramirez: cindyram@nmsu.edu** by **5PM October 30, 2023**. The single PDF file should be labeled using: last name-C4CR-FY2023.

Proposal Components:

Please use standard NIH fonts and size (e.g., Arial, 11 point) and ½” margins for all of the following documents.

1. **Cover page** (1 page; please use the form provided on page 5 of this document)

*Provide project title, names and affiliations of the principal investigator(s) and other key personnel, total direct cost requested, and start and end dates for the project. Also on the Cover page include a **Project Summary/Abstract** (up to 30 lines of text). State the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims and describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be a self-contained description of the project informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader and suitable for dissemination to the public.*
2. **Specific Aims** (not to exceed one page)

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel research design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, develop new technology, and/or impact local health problems through innovative community-based participatory research strategies.
3. **Research Strategy** (not to exceed four pages), include the following sections.

Significance

State the importance of the problem or need that the proposed project addresses, including how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, clinical practice, research training, educational practices, community-based participatory research impacts, and/or eliminate health disparities

Innovation

Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe and identify any advantages of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, collaborations, interventions, or other contributions that will be developed.



Approach

Describe research methods and provide a project timeline, interim milestones, and specific plans for publications, presentations, and submission of future extramural grant applications. For equipment/instrumentation describe how multi-investigator cancer research will be enabled at NMSU, specific experiments proposed, and plan for management including a description of the process for investigator access and training.

4. **Literature Cited** (no page limit)
5. **NIH Format Biographical Sketch** (five-page maximum per individual)
Provide for principal and co-principal investigators
See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for the format
6. **Budget and Period of Support** (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024)
Use the attached template on page 6 of this document.
7. **Budget Justification**
Provide detailed justifications for each cost category. For equipment/instrumentation proposals justify based on scientific needs and the unavailability of similar resources, and describe other sources of funding to be used for purchase.
8. **Progress Report** from last funding cycle
*Provide all progress report materials if this application is a continuation of a previously funded C4CR project. Request report materials from Dr. Jessica Houston:
jph@nmsu.edu*
9. **Include the following sections where applicable**
Protection of [Human Subjects](#); [Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Individuals Across the Lifespan](#); [Vertebrate Animals](#); Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources, Select Agent Research; Resource Sharing Plan, Multiple PI Plan



Evaluation Process

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Scientific Approach (includes significance, approach, and innovation)**

Significance

Does this study address an important problem consonant with the objectives of Cowboys for Cancer Research? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field of cancer research and/or research on cancer disparities?

Approach

Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation

Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

2. **Feasibility**

Is the investigator(s) appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Is there evidence of collaboration and partnership?

3. **Relevance**

To what extent might this project have an impact on New Mexico cancer treatment or prevention? In case of specialized equipment/instrumentation: how will this enable transformative cancer research at NMSU?

4. **Compatibility with C4CR Goals**

To what extent does the project address development of cancer research? To what extent does the project focus on important questions in cancer treatment or cancer prevention?

5. **Future Extramural Funding**

Is the project likely to lead to independent funding?



COVER PAGE FOR C4CR PILOT GRANT (FY 2023)

Project Title:
Principal Investigator (Name, affiliation):
Collaborating Investigator(s): (If applicable)
Total Direct Cost Requested:

PROJECT SUMMARY (30 lines of text)



COWBOYS FOR CANCER RESEARCH

BE BOLD. Shape the Future. Elevate Research and Creativity.



BUDGET TEMPLATE FOR C4CR GRANT (FY 2023)

Principal Investigator (Last, First, Middle):

<i>DETAILED 1-YEAR BUDGET (DIRECT COSTS ONLY)</i>	FROM	THROUGH
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PERSONNEL <i>(Applicant organization only)</i>		Months Devoted to Project			INST.BASE SALARY	DOLLAR AMOUNT REQUESTED <i>(omit cents)</i>		
NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mnths	Acad. Mnths	Summer Mnths		SALARY REQUESTED	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
SUBTOTALS								

CONSULTANT COSTS

EQUIPMENT *(Itemize)*

SUPPLIES *(Itemize by category)*

TRAVEL

PATIENT CARE COSTS	INPATIENT
	OUTPATIENT

OTHER EXPENSES *(Itemize by category)*

COLLABORATOR COSTS (DIRECT COSTS ONLY)	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$