

# Keck School of Medicine of USC

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Dean

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Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Dean's Pilot Funding Program  
Fiscal Year 2020-2021

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The Office of the Dean would like to collaborate with KSOM departments and institutes to provide faculty members with funding for initial exploration of new research areas. **Priority will be to obtain feasibility data that will lead to submission of new NIH R-series or other major research proposals.** The primary target audiences include junior investigators starting a research program and established investigators moving to a new area of research that is clearly distinct from their prior research. The eligibility requirements, terms, and application process are outlined below:

## Eligibility Requirements (all required)

- Full-time KSOM or CHLA faculty member as of July 1, 2018
- Single or multiple PIs
- Co-Is from other USC schools are allowed, but all funds will be disbursed directly through KSOM rather than through satellite accounts to other schools or through purchase orders to CHLA if an award is issued.

## Previous Awardee Eligibility Requirements (all required)

- Applicants who have received a Dean's pilot award in the previous year are eligible to apply for support for a new and separate project only if:
    - your previous award has been completed, including the timely and complete expenditure of funds from the previous funding year by the application deadline (prior award cannot be in no-cost extension); and
    - you can demonstrate productivity from the prior award in the form of published or accepted manuscripts and/or grant applications funded or submitted.
- Past recipients of Dean's pilot award(s) must include an additional 250-word summary of the prior award outcomes to address these points, which will be considered during the review process of a new proposal.

## Resubmission Requirement

If this is a re-submission of an application that was reviewed but not funded in a prior application cycle, please submit a ½ page (250 words; single-spaced) cover letter indicating how you have responded to the reviewers' comments.

## Terms of Award

- Up to \$40,000 for one year composed of a 2.2:1 ratio of funds from the Dean's office and investigators' home department(s) or Institute(s). For example, the maximum award would be \$27,500 from the Dean and \$12,500 from the home department(s) of the participating investigator(s).
- Applications must include a letter of commitment specifying the amount and source(s) of the cost share.
- Applications from multiple departments can derive the cost share from any combination of participating departments; it is up to the investigators to secure the matching funds.
- A no-cost extension of up to one additional year may be granted upon review of a written request to the Dean of the Keck School
- PI salary is not allowed in the budget request
- The Keck School anticipates making up to ten awards in FY19, utilizing funds from the Christiansen Estate Endowed Fund and additional funds from the Keck School Dean for the School's contribution to awards.

## How to Apply

- Letter of Intent: Due no later than 5 p.m. (PDT) on August 16, 2019
  - The letter of intent is optional, but will aid in securing the appropriate expertise on the review panel.
  - Submit your letter by clicking [here](#) (**portal will open July 29, 2019**).
- Full Proposal:
  - Due by 5 p.m. (PDT) on Monday, September 9, 2019
  - the full application will include the following:
    - cover page
    - ½-page abstract
    - focused (< 3 pages) research plan
    - <1-page bibliography
    - biosketches of all investigators
    - cost share letter signed by chair(s) and or director(s) of departments or institutes committing to the cost share;
    - budget and budget justification
    - Grant submission portal will open July 29, 2019
    - Resubmissions should include introduction of up to 250 words, as described above.
    - Submission from prior awardees should include a summary of prior award outcomes of up to 250 words, as described above.
- Submit full proposal by clicking [here](#) (**portal will open July 29, 2019**).

Applications will be considered incomplete and, therefore, not reviewed until all materials are submitted.

## **Review and Award**

Applications will be peer-reviewed internally at USC using the following review criteria:

- Innovation of the research and novelty of the area of research to the PI(s)
- Feasibility of the primary hypothesis and/or importance of the stated purpose of the research
- Approach: Quality and appropriateness of the study design, methodology, data acquisition and analysis
- Investigators: Qualifications to conduct the proposed research
- Resources and Environment: Quality and availability of resources needed to conduct the research
- Potential to lead to extramural funding, focusing on three areas:
  1. specific justification regarding the nature of the data to be collected and how it will be used to strengthen one or more follow-on grant applications;
  2. milestones for collection of the data and timeline for submission of extramural application(s)
  3. specific funding mechanisms or opportunities that would be targeted for extramural funding applications

Recommendations for funding will be made by a committee appointed by the Dean of the Keck School, while final approval will be by the Dean.

## **FY20 Review Timeline**

- Letter of intent (optional): 5 p.m. (PDT) August 16, 2019
- Application Deadline: 5 p.m. PDT on September 9, 2019
- Final Selection of Awardees: Week of October 25, 2019
- Funding Initiation: November 1, 2019
- Progress Report due December 1, 2020 (unless no cost extension approved prior to this date)