



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE (ROI) AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL
PLANNING GRANT (IPG) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

March 9, 2018

University of North Carolina System
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

UNC SYSTEM ROI AND IPG FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Questions:

1. Is UNC Healthcare an eligible funded partner – that is can a UNC institution partner with an endocrinologist at one or more of the UNC Healthcare site?
 - a. UNC Healthcare could not be the only partner on the proposal.
2. Are NC Community Colleges eligible partners?
 - a. Yes.
3. I don't see a website for the Inter-Institutional Planning Grants (like the ROI site). Can you provide me the link?
 - a. There is not a separate website for the IPG RFP. The full document has been provided to each institution's Chief Research Officer.
4. The links to the submission sites are broken. How can I get access to the submission links?
 - a. The Chief Research Officers will rank up to four ROI and IPG (any combination of stage 1 and 2) pre-proposals. The links for submission will be provided to the CROs for distribution at their institution.

ROI Frequently Asked Questions:

1. If I submitted a proposal last year that was not funded – should I revise to address reviewer comments and resubmit this year?
 - a. You should consider resubmission of your pre-proposal. The Chief Research Officers will rank up to four ROI and IPG (any combination of stage 1 and 2) pre-proposals for submission. Pre-proposals are externally reviewed and must stand on their own merit. The reviewers used for this round of pre-proposals will not have access to your previous proposal or comments.
2. Is the ROI for new collaborations or established collaborations only?
 - a. The UNC System ROI awards are designed to build capacity in research areas that are strategically important to North Carolina. The intent of this funding is not to establish a research program de novo; rather it is to provide the needed boost to propel a team to national or international prominence.
3. Can the budget be revised after the pre-proposal submission for a full proposal?
 - a. There is some flexibility since the pre-proposal budget is preliminary. However, a revision should not change the scope of the project since the pre-proposal review includes an assessment of the project's "fit and feasibility" described by the following:
 - Does the project target one or more of the six priority areas?
 - Is the project completion feasible based on the proposed timeline and budget?

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4. Please provide clarity on the allowability of out-of-state vendors and in-state collaborators. Can non-UNC entities be funded partners? Can out of state vendors be used?
 - a. ROI is funded by a legislative appropriation with a goal of enhancing capacity within the UNC System. Thus, the prohibition of funding out of state collaborators. The answer depends on the type of working relationship with the out of state vendor. Of particular interest and consideration are any downstream IP or licensing implementations for the engagement of the vendor.

IPG Frequently Asked Questions

1. We have a pilot project research and evaluation study running on a computational science course that is being presented in rural areas of the state through interactive video. Could we partner with one or more UNC institutions to bolster the evaluation into a larger research project?
 - a. The pre-proposal must meet the criteria of 1) fit and feasibility, 2) broader impact, and 3) intellectual merit. Refer to the RFP for the (page 7) for the types of activities anticipated for Stage 1 versus Stage 2 IPGs.
2. Are focus group/research study participant incentives an eligible cost item?
 - a. The source of funds for IPG awards are State of NC appropriations. Any expenditures must be allowable under the NC State Budget Manual, institutional regulations and policies, and consistent with the approved budget. Further, projects involving study participants must be reviewed and approved in accordance with institution regulations for the use of human subjects in research prior to launching the project.
3. How can faculty from the arts or humanities participate in the IPG competition? I specialize in communication studies, how might I participate in the IPG competition?
 - a. Collaboration between STEM and non-STEM fields is encouraged. The pre-proposal must meet the criteria of 1) fit and feasibility, 2) broader impact, and 3) intellectual merit. Refer to the RFP for the (page 7) for the types of activities anticipated for Stage 1 versus Stage 2 IPGs.
4. I have an idea about a cross-institutional concept regarding adult learners. How might this be a topic eligible for the IPG program?
 - a. The pre-proposal would need to align with one of the stated priority areas and must meet the criteria of 1) fit and feasibility, 2) broader impact, and 3) intellectual merit.
5. I have a pending federal proposal that carries a significant match requirement. Could IPG funds be used as match against a federal award?
 - a. Any project submitted to the IPG RFP would need to stand on its own merit (project scope and budget) in case the proposal to the other agency is not funded. If the IPG is awarded as a stand-alone project and the proposal to the federal agency is awarded at a later time that aligns in scope, the IPG award could be counted as match with federal sponsor and university/college approval.