



FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PILOT GRANTS OPEN TO CANCER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS January 2025

RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 2, 2025

DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Funds are available from the Fred Hutch/University of Washington/Seattle Children's Cancer Consortium ("the Consortium") to support cancer-related pilot projects. This competition will provide 3-4 awards of up to \$100,000 direct costs (plus F&A/indirect costs) for one year of pilot project support. Consortium members are eligible for this pilot funding (see *Application Process* for more details).

There are no limitations on research topic, provided the problem under study is focused on cancer. Highly innovative concepts that have the potential to improve the lives of cancer patients are encouraged. Also included in this competition are two categories targeted as areas of special interest to the Consortium: health equity research and cross-disciplinary translational research.

GUIDELINES

1. The pilot proposals should represent a new project or new research direction for the principal investigator that will provide preliminary data needed to seek outside funding. Applications should not be an extension of ongoing well-established or recently funded studies. Applications from more established investigators (e.g. professors) will be competitive if they are for a pilot study that is needed to establish a new direction or research project. Collaborations between established investigators and junior colleagues will also be viewed favorably.
2. In your proposal, please show how this work is a pilot project. The application should:
 - Describe how this work is a new direction for your group and is highly innovative, yet technically feasible.
 - Show how this work reveals the homegrown intellectual and creative strengths of the investigator(s). New collaborations are encouraged.
 - Describe how this work will benefit cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment.
 - Describe what 2-3 pieces of data can be gathered that will position this work for NIH or other external funding. Proposals with no preliminary data are encouraged.
 - Indicate how this grant is a timely opportunity that might otherwise be lost if delayed by the NIH review cycle.
3. Anticipated funding: 3 to 4 pilot awards for up to \$100,000 direct costs each (plus F&A/indirect costs) will be made from Consortium funds.
4. Categories of special interest:
 - **Health equity research:** Pilot proposals should follow all guidelines in this RFA. Please indicate if the proposed project addresses a health equity research topic.
 - **Cross-disciplinary translational research:** Pilot proposals should follow all guidelines in this RFA. Applications in this category should focus on the translation of basic research findings to improve disease therapy or prevention. A minimum of two Consortium members representing two different disciplines must collaborate on the scientific plan, with one member serving as the PI of the grant. Please indicate in the application if the proposed project is cross-disciplinary translational research and

which disciplines are included (basic science, clinical, or population science). If this project also addresses a health equity research topic, please indicate that as well.

5. Contact Cancer Consortium Administration (cancerconsortium@fredhutch.org) with general questions regarding this opportunity, with inquiries about how specific projects fit the aforementioned categories, or if you have any issues submitting your application using the InfoReady platform.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Eligibility

- Faculty who have received a Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG)-funded award of any kind or a Safeway pilot award within three years of the anticipated award start date (April 1, 2025), **are not eligible to apply**.

Eligibility Criteria
Only eligible applicants may serve as Principal Investigator (PI) on the Pilot Award.
Applicants must be Consortium members by the application deadline to be eligible. <ul style="list-style-type: none">For additional information, please see the up-to-date listing of Consortium members posted at https://www.cancerconsortium.org/membership.html.
Consortium members in Acting faculty positions and faculty with Consortium Affiliate memberships are not eligible to apply but can be involved in the pilot project as collaborators.
Faculty can only serve as PI on one pilot award application per year, inclusive of this general Pilot Award competition and the Catchment Area Health Pilot Award competition hosted by the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement; however, they may be collaborators/co-Investigators on more than one application.

B. Application Content/Format

Applicants must complete and submit the 2025 Pilot Application using InfoReady.

The application should clearly outline the aims and the strategy of the project and why funding through this pilot grant mechanism is appropriate, including how you anticipate this support will generate future funding.

- Adhere to NIH font and line spacing guidelines as outlined here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm#font>.
- Provide the project information requested in the InfoReady platform (see section regarding PI and Award Institution determination) and an abstract that states the primary hypothesis. The abstract and the proposal should both be written to be understandable by reviewers with diverse expertise, as the review panel will consist of faculty from across the Consortium.
- The scientific research plan should be 2 pages maximum. The budget, budget justification*, and figures/tables can each be one additional page, with no page limit for references.
- If you have received CCSG or Safeway pilot funding in the past five years, include a summary (1 page maximum) describing the main aim of the funded project, and whether any publications, new collaborations, or external grants resulted from the funding.
- Include an NIH Biosketch listing your current sources of funding and a one-line description of the primary goal of each funded grant. A biosketch should be included for each key personnel involved with the project. FAQs on the current NIH Biosketch format, samples, and templates: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

- Projects with a PI and work based at UW or Seattle Children's must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) from their Sponsored Projects/Sponsored Research office along with their application.

* Please submit a Budget and Budget Justification for each institution and/or subaward.

C. Criteria For Funding

Applications should meet the criteria stated above in the *Guidelines* section. Successful applications will:

- Advance cancer-related research.
- Yield pivotal data in a one-year timeframe.
- Use cutting edge approaches.
- Represent unique intellectual perspectives coupled with innovative approaches.

D. Application Due Date

Applications are due **by 5:00pm PST on Friday, February 14**. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted for evaluation by the Consortium Pilot Award Review Committee.

E. Application Submission

Applications should be submitted using InfoReady: **Cancer Consortium Pilot Award Competition 2025**: <https://fredhutch.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1954890>.

- Fred Hutch users should use the single-sign-on (SSO) to start their application.
- Seattle Children's and University of Washington applicants will first need to create an account. *Please use the applicants' primary institutional affiliation email address.*
- If you would like an administrator to submit on your behalf, the primary applicant will need to sign-in and designate this role.
- Use the templates provided in the "Details" menu under Supporting Documents.

Contact Cancer Consortium Administration cancerconsortium@fredhutch.org with any technical concerns or questions about using the InfoReady platform or for assistance with proxy submission if needed.

F. Award Timeline

Applications will be reviewed in March and funding is expected to begin by April 1, 2025. Access to award funds is subject to Fred Hutch Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) review and receipt of all compliance documents such as COI disclosures, PI Assurances, etc.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AND AWARD INSTITUTION DETERMINATION

Who is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Pilot?

The individual identified with the Role of PI on the project and who has the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project supported by the award. Faculty can only be listed as the PI on one application.

How are Key Personnel or subaward sites identified?

Investigators associated with UW or Children's who will receive a subaward off of a prime project awarded to FH should be listed with the role of co-Investigator and listed on the application associated with a subaward institution. If the prime project is awarded to UW or Children's with a FH component, a FH Investigator should be named as a co-Investigator/Administrative PI.

Which Institution will receive the award?

The primary award institution listed on the application should be the institution to receive and administer the award. It is the institution from where the primary work will be conducted by the PI and the budget will reside.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES

<p>PI of the application must have some measurable effort on the project for direction and supervision. Consortium leadership recommends the PI include some salary on the project.</p>
<p>Primary Site Fred Hutch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hutch Grants routing will be required only after an award is made.• UW or Children's collaborators are allowable and a subaward should be budgeted.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Submit a PHS398 budget page for each institution. Direct cost budgets should total \$100,000 combined.◦ An LOI from the subaward institution must accompany the pilot application.• If a subaward will go to a non-Consortium institution, the subaward institution's F&A must be included in the FH direct cost total.
<p>Primary Site UW or Children's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional sign-off should be received prior to submission of a pilot award proposal for review.• An LOI must accompany the pilot application.• Per UW OSP, submit an e-GC1 anticipating that if awarded, both direct and indirect costs will be received.• If a subaward will go to a non-Consortium institution, the subaward institution's F&A must be included in the UW or SC direct cost total.
<p>Funding</p>
<p>Subawards allowed.</p>
<p>Not allowable: tuition, upgrades to established shared resources, or equipment.</p>
<p>Funds should be spent in one year.</p>
<p>A single no-cost extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will only be considered for projects facing extenuating circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All no-cost extensions will be reviewed by the Cancer Consortium Executive Committee.
<p>Primary Site UW or Children's:</p> <p>A subaward will be issued for costs incurred at the primary award institution with F&A provided at the appropriate institutional rate.</p> <p>Primary Site UW or Children's with a FH budget component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A FH co-Investigator (or Administrative PI) needs to be named to maintain financial oversight of the work taking place at FH. This person should have a measurable amount of effort; salary support is not required.• Funds to be spent at FH will be deducted from the award amount prior to issuing the subaward; the balance will be issued via a subaward to UW or Children's.• FH direct cost budget and UW/Children's direct budget should total \$100,000 combined. F&A will be provided to each institution at the appropriate rate. Submit a PHS398 budget page for each institution.• Additional F&A associated with Consortium F&A collection will be included in your award and will not come out of your direct costs.