



**Pre-Application Webinar:
PAR-23-306, Biomedical Research Facilities (BRF)
PAR-24-033, Limited Competition: Non-Human Primate Facilities**

Division of Construction and Instruments

OD/DPCPSI/ORIP

December 1, 2023

Rules of Engagement

- **PLEASE KEEP YOUR CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES OFF**
- **Submit questions via the Q&A at any time. We will answer questions in order that they are received.**
- **All comments submitted in the Q&A, as well as general discussion, will be saved and reviewed by moderators. A Frequently Asked Questions document will be generated for distribution.**
- **Further comments or questions may be emailed to ORIP Division of Construction and Instruments staff after the session.**



Introduction to Our Panelists

- Franziska B. Grieder, D.V.M., Ph.D.
- Xiang-Ning Li, M.D., Ph.D.
- Yong Chen, Ph.D.
- Guanghu (Jeff) Wang, Ph.D., M.B.A.



Construction Program

- **Construction (C06) is a unique funding mechanism at NIH, very few NIH ICOs have C06 funding authority**
 - Requires its own yearly congressional appropriation
 - NIH has received BRF appropriations in the amount of ~\$50-\$80 million/year for the past five fiscal years
- **Program supports facilities that drive transformative, cutting-edge biomedical research**
 - Projects should have significant institutional impact, bringing the research to a new level
- **Construction (C06) program is highly competitive**
 - BRF success rate over the past five years: ~10%



Overview

- **ORIP in DPCPSI/OD manages NIH construction awards**
 - ORIP develops Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), holds informational webinars, and oversees of applications and awarded grants
- **CSR is responsible for application review**
- **High demand program, ~100 applications/year for last few years for BRF**
- **Currently active funding opportunity announcements**
 - **PAR-23-306 - Biomedical Research Facilities**
 - **PAR-24-033 - Limited Competition: Non-Human Primates Facilities to Support HIV/AIDS-related Research**



Introduction to the Program and Presenter

- **PAR-23-306**
 - Presented by Yong Chen, Ph.D.
- **PAR-24-033**
 - Presented by Guanghu (Jeff) Wang, Ph.D., M.B.A.
- **Questions and Answers**
 - Presented by:
 - Yong Chen, Ph.D.
 - Xiang-Ning Li, M.D., Ph.D.
 - Guanghu (Jeff) Wang, Ph.D., M.B.A.
 - Steven Breslin, AIA, PE, LEED AP
 - Kenneth Holiness, MISM



What we'll discuss under PAR-23-306

- Goal and target
- Considerations before applying
 - Research intensive vs. IEE
 - A0 only (A1 not allowed)
- Structure of the application
 - PD/PI
 - Budget
- Review and funding criteria
- Timeline
- Some good practices



Goals of the Biomedical Research Facilities PAR-23-306

- **GOAL: Modernize existing or construct new biomedical research facilities**
 - Facility must be able to operate and be used for biomedical research for 10 years post beneficial occupancy
 - 10 years of Notice of Federal Interest (NFI) will allow the grantees to stay on the cutting edge of science with the flexibility to change research directions after 10 years of proposed research
- **TARGET: Shared-use facilities: core labs, animal facilities, biorepositories, imaging centers, HPC centers, clinical research centers, cGMP installations, etc.**
 - All shared BRFs are eligible, no preferred type of facility
 - Facility should enable cutting-edge biomedical research
 - BRF NOFO is not intended for routine upgrading of outdated spaces
 - New capacities and next-level science are expected



Institutional Eligibility

- **Who may apply?**
 - Any US domestic academic/research institute
 - Only ONE application per organization
 - As defined by NIH IPF number
 - Only one active BRF C06 allowed at a time within the last three fiscal years
 - Grantees under PAR-21-139, PAR-22-088, or PAR-23-045 (last three years) are not eligible
- **Research intensive institutions vs. Institutions of Emerging Excellence (IEEs)**
 - 25% of total funds set aside for IEEs
 - IEEs must self-identify and justify their status as an IEE
 - Failure to self-identify puts you in the research-intensive category



What constitutes an IEE?

- **Leverage their research abilities to address a significant problem, concern, or unmet need in the US**
- **Are in locales with deficits in research resources that adversely affect the health of the local population**
- **Work to remedy health disparities, serving as centers for dissemination of health information, workforce development, and research advancement**
 - **Deficits in physical infrastructure hamper these efforts**
- **Often have relatively low levels of NIH funding**



Other Considerations for IEEs

- No fixed cut-off on total NIH (or other) funding
- Location in an IDeA state is not sufficient for IEE status
- IEE status justification should include the domain of excellence targeted by the IEE
- IEEs may define their missions differently than research intensives
 - Advanced biomedical research required
 - Institutional and regional/national impact required
 - Education and workforce training permitted, but cannot be the exclusive focus of the facility



A0 vs. A1?

- A0 applications only. Resubmission (A1) applications are NOT allowed
- Unsuccessful prior applications must submit as a new application (A0)
 - DO NOT include an introduction or discuss previous submission
 - Failure to comply may result in application withdrawal from review
- My application was unsuccessful two years running, can I resubmit my application from two years ago rather than last year?
 - Yes, but only as an A0



PD/PI, Key Personnel, and Users

- **Single PD/PI**
 - A Ph.D.-level administrator or senior scientist with a leadership role in the institution and adequate standing to direct the project and bring it to completion
 - NIH funding is NOT required of the PD/PI
- **Other key personnel and users**
 - Construction project manager with engineering/architect expertise (required)
 - Facilities manager or other subject matter experts required for design and execution of the project (optional)
 - No minimum number of facility users
 - No NIH funding required of users



Budget

- Individual awards: \$3 - \$8 million
- Projects must be completed within 5 years
- Budget can support design, construction, MEP infrastructure, and some fixed, support equipment
 - 10% or less of requested budget for fixed equipment
 - Fixed equipment means that it must be built into or directly connected to the infrastructure of the facility, e.g., fume hoods, autoclaves
 - Fixed does not mean large, immobile, or heavy equipment
 - No scientific equipment (data generating) allowed
 - Reach out to program to make sure that your equipment request is supported
- Contingency fee allowed (15%)
- No salary support unrelated to construction
- No overhead



Structure of the Application and Required Attachments

- **Standard SF424 (R&R) Application Guide requirements apply with the following changes:**
 - No vertebrate animals, human subjects, or select agents
 - Biohazards should be addressed if relevant
- **Required attachments:**
 - Overview (1 page)
 - Scientific (and IEE) Justification and Facility Development (12 pages)



Required Attachments (cont.)

- **Biosketches for the PD/PI and Project Manager**
- **Annotated satellite and/or map views of the envisioned construction site**
- **Line drawings of the facility on standard, letter-size paper**
 - No page limit, color permitted
- **List of each room/component's size (dimensions) and square footage (Table 1)**
- **List of requested fixed equipment (Table 2)**
- **Project timeline**
- **Budget justification**
 - Must include vendor quotes for fixed equipment
- **Letter from a high-ranking institutional official indicating financial support for the facility**
- **Verification of title to property or 10+ year lease**



Optional Attachments

- **List (Table 3) of up to 12 relevant active grants**
 - Select the most relevant active grants for inclusion
- **Maximum of seven letters of support**

Be sure to name the attachments per NOFO instructions



CO6 Review Criteria

- Scientific merit and organization of the total program and its component parts
- Administrative and leadership capabilities of the applicant's officers and staff
- Anticipated effect of the project on other relevant research programs and facilities in the area/nation
- Need for the project or additional space
- Project design

All review criteria are important and may carry equal weight.



Nine CO6 Funding Considerations

- Impact score
- NIH and program priorities
- Scientific merit of the research activities
- Scientific/professional standing of the applicant and team
- Availability of other facilities/personnel to support activities and/or adequate biocontainment (where applicable)
- Need for the facility and its effect on similar facilities in the locale
- Project cost and design
- Geographical distribution
- Availability of funds



Timeline

- **Application due date:** **January 25, 2024**
- **Scientific merit review:** **July 2024**
- **Advisory council review:** **October 2024**
- **Award date:** **October 2024**



General Good Practices

- Thoroughly understand the NOFO by reading it carefully
- **Reach out to program to verify that your fixed equipment request is supported**
- Make the reviewers' task easier
 - With a clear writing style
 - With good organization of your application
- Think like a reviewer while preparing your application
 - Make everything explicit
 - Ask yourself whether your most important points have come across clearly



PAR24-033: Facilities for SPF NHPs

Limited Competition: Development and Renovation of Facilities for Expanding the Breeding Capacity of Specific Pathogen Free Non-Human Primates to Support HIV/AIDS-related Research



PAR24-033: Goal, award amount, etc.

GOAL: Support infrastructure construction, expansion, and modernization to meet the urgent need of SPF NHPs for HIV/AIDS-related research:

- **To enable and enhance transformative cutting-edge biomedical and biobehavioral research using SPF NHPs**
- **Must focus on HIV/AIDS research**

Individual award amount: \$2 - \$4 million

NOFO active for two years: FY 2024 and FY 2025



PAR24-033: Eligibility

- Institution must house existing SPF colony that is directly supported by current NIH awards as a research service or breeding center, e.g., NPRCs and other NHP resources, with NIH award number(s) clearly identified
- Only ONE application per organization
- New submission (A0) only



PAR24-033: PI/PD requirement

- A Ph.D.-level scientist who possesses knowledge of the NHP breeding, as well as, NHP-related HIV/AIDS research field using SPF NHPs
- Hold appropriate standing within the institutional administration structure
- Have a demonstrated record of leadership skills



PAR24-033: Timeline

- **Application due date:** **January 07, 2024**
- **Scientific merit review:** **March 2024**
- **Advisory council review:** **May 2024**
- **Earliest Start date:** **July 2024**



PAR24-033: Required Attachments

- Biosketches for the PI, Project Manager, and other key Personnel
- Line drawings of the facility
- List of components with size (dimensions) and square footage
- List of requested fixed equipment
- **List of active HIV/AIDS research awards using SPF NHPs** that drive the need for this project
- Budget justification
 - Must include vendor quotes for fixed equipment
- Letter from a high-ranking institutional official indicating financial support for the facility
- Certification of title to site of 10+ year
- Project timeline



PAR24-033: Optional Attachments

- Up to five support letters



PAR24-033: Spaces for NHPs

Review criteria:

- Scientific Merit & Organization of Program
- Needs of SPF NHPs
- Anticipated impact locally, regionally, and nationwide
- Management and administration of construction and space
- Technical design details – feasibility



General Good Practices

- **Thoroughly understand the NOFO**
- **Write with clear style, good organization, and consistency**
- **Think like a reviewer while preparing your application**
 - **Make everything explicit**
 - **Ask yourself whether your most important points have come across clearly**
- **Reach out to the program if you have questions**





Questions and Answers

Questions: Facilities

- Is a project to remodel two core facilities located in two separate buildings acceptable?
- Is it allowable to request funding for shell-space fit out of a specialized research laboratory that is part of a larger fit out project already underway?
- Is any particular type of facility considered high program priority?



Questions: Budget

- If I am awarded a grant, can I charge the amount I spent on the design section (e.g., floor plans) of my application to the grant?
- Will there be options for additional supplementary funding if costs rise due to COVID supply chain issues or inflation?
- Will my chances of getting funded be better if my budget is smaller?
- Is cost sharing required?
- Does voluntary cost sharing help my application?



Questions: Administrative

- What should I do if I have questions about or problems in uploading in the ASSIST system?
- How should line drawings be prepared for the application?
- Will this program be re-issued next year?



Questions: Administrative

- **Could you please clarify whether Table 3 should only include the five columns listed, or whether it should also include the infrastructure needs of the research program they are a part of?**
- **Am I correct in understanding that for this C06 application, any non-scientific team members (with roles such as Other Professional or Consultant) will also have to have obtained a Commons ID in order to be listed as senior/key, or the system would generate an error that would prevent submission?**





Thank you very much for attending our webinar

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