

CIAPM Depression Request for Proposals (RFP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: February 8, 2024

1. Was the RFP Informational Webinar on October 2nd recorded?

Yes, you can access a recording of the informational webinar [here](#).

2. Are there any preferred populations that applicants should address and to which projects should respond?

No, the RFP does not target any particular populations. However, one of the selection criteria in the [RFP instructions](#) (pages 14-15) requires projects to have the potential to reduce health disparities.

3. Given CIAPM's motto of "the right medication for the right person at the right time," do projects have to include a medication?

No, CIAPM uses that phrase as a general concept to reflect that precision medicine accounts for the "whole person." The phrase could be further extended to read "the right medication/diagnosis/treatment/analysis for the right person at the right time in the right place with the right provider under the right circumstances," etc.

4. Is it acceptable to study suicidal thoughts and behaviors in the context of depression?

Yes. Projects should use precision medicine approaches to improve our understanding of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of depression, which may include suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

5. For these grants, is innovation or feasibility more important? That is, will high-risk, high-reward projects be prioritized?

There is no specific preference between innovation or feasibility. However, please note that CIAPM's [enabling statute](#) requires that CIAPM base its funding award decisions on criteria that include the potential for tangible benefit to patients within two to five years, including the likelihood that the study will have an immediate impact on patients. Additional selection criteria can be found on pages 14-15 of the [RFP instructions](#).

6. In terms of impact, at what scale will this type of project need to be in terms of participants recruited?

There is no requirement for the scale or number of participants recruited. Projects should consider, however, the number of people required to provide meaningful statistical analysis and impact.

7. Does the community partner have to be involved in depression treatment or just have access to patients with depression?

The community partner does not need to be involved in depression treatment, as the RFP covers a continuum of depression prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The community partner should provide support to people with or at risk for depression.

8. Would the following types of organizations qualify as a community partner, for the purposes of satisfying the RFP's requirement to be co-led by a community organization?
 - a. Government organizations: Local and state government agencies (e.g., county behavioral health, state public health) are eligible to serve as community partners if they provide support to people with, or at risk for, depression.
 - b. Schools: A traditional public school (pre-K to Grade 12) is eligible to serve as a community partner if it provides support to people with, or at risk for, depression.
 - c. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs): FQHCs are eligible to serve as community partners if they provide support to people with, or at risk for, depression.
 - d. For-profit community organizations: The Community Partner Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with a non-profit community organization or public agency. For-profit community organizations can serve as the private sector partner, so long as they provide financial, in-kind, or other services to the project.
 - e. If you have specific questions about eligibility, please contact ciapm@opr.ca.gov to discuss the details of your scenario.
9. Describe the requirements for the private sector collaborator. For a competitive application, what type of resources would be expected from the private sector collaborator? **(Updated on November 9, 2023)**

The intent of the private sector collaborator is to add capability, scalability, and/or sustainability to the project, research team, and community partners. Any resources that align with those goals could be part of a strong application. The private sector collaborator should not be a PI, and CIAPM funds will not be allocated to support salaries of private sector collaborators.

The private sector collaboration is not required until the full proposal stage because it takes time to develop those trusting partnerships that align with the goals of the community and the project. For the full proposal, be prepared to describe the role of the private sector collaboration, the value add to the research project, the community, and the patient population, and to list the resources and/or deliverables that the private sector collaborator will provide.

If you have specific questions about private sector collaborations, please contact ciapm@opr.ca.gov.

10. Does the Lead PI need to be a Medical Doctor (M.D. or D.O.)? **(Updated on February 8, 2024)**

No, the only requirement for the Lead PI is that they must be based at a non-profit academic research institution. The primary institution should be a California-based nonprofit academic research institution conducting original research and providing academic training to their own students and/or trainees.

11. Has the absence of support for indirect costs for the lead institution been a hurdle for universities in previous calls, or has this been pre-negotiated?

CIAPM has not supported indirect costs for the primary institution of a demonstration project since the program's inception, as the State considers recipients of these grants partners in our mission to demonstrate the promise and potential of precision medicine, particularly for equitable outcomes. Grant agreements, as for the RFP, clearly state this condition.

12. Will the Expert Selection Committee review process follow the same format that CIAPM has used for previous grants?

Yes, this is the same process, as modeled after the NIH review process. Procedures are outlined in our [statute](#), as well, using the selection criteria outlined [in the RFP](#) (pages 14-15).

13. What are the standard terms and conditions to which the primary institution will need to agree to as a condition for funding and are there any terms and conditions which you anticipate flowing down or potentially affecting unfunded private sector collaborators? **(Added on November 9, 2023)**

The primary institution would need to agree to standard agreement terms and conditions laid out by the Department of General Services for agreements between CSU/UCs and state agencies. You can find the [Model Agreement and University Terms and Conditions here](#). CIAPM plans to utilize these standard terms in grant agreements developed under this RFP. The grant agreement for all other eligible California-based non-profit academic research institutions will be based on this Model Agreement as well.

Exhibits A4, A7, C, E, and G within the Model Agreement may be relevant for third-party private sector collaborators. CIAPM does not have any other standard conditions beyond what is mentioned above.

14. How do applicants submit their Concept Proposal? **(Added on November 9, 2023)**

All eligible Letters of Intent (LOI) submissions are invited to move forward with submitting the Concept Proposal by December 1st. CIAPM staff sent the form to submit the Concept Proposal through the Submittable platform to Submittable account for each LOI submitter. If you did not receive the Concept Proposal form, please email ciapm@opr.ca.gov, and CIAPM staff can resend it.

15. Is there a specific required format for resumes of non-scientific staff? **(Added on November 9, 2023)**

There is no specific required format for resumes of non-scientific team members. These team members are welcome to include updated resumes in their current formatting, provided that a resume for an individual team member does not exceed five pages.

16. Do you have previous Concept Proposals that you can share with applicants as examples? **(Added on November 9, 2023)**

CIAPM does not have previous Concept Proposals to share with applicants. However, you can view the information about [CIAPM's previous and current research portfolio, project titles and primary institutions](#) of the awarded, finalist, and additional applicants from CIAPM's recent

funding opportunity on Adverse Childhood Experiences, and an [evaluation report of CIAPM's completed projects](#).

17. Does CIAPM have a salary cap for PIs or other team members that should be followed in the budget section? **(Added on February 8, 2024)**

CIAPM asks that applicants follow institutional and [NIH guidance for salary caps](#).

18. Can funds in the budget be provided to organizations outside California? **(Added on February 8, 2024)**

All project PIs and key team members must reside in California. A collaborator or consultant who resides outside of California may receive funds from a CIAPM grant. For amounts over \$50,000 total per individual, written justification must be provided in the Full Proposal.

CIAPM funds are intended to be used exclusively in California. If the project necessitates the use of CIAPM funds outside of California, please contact ciapm@opr.ca.gov and provide a brief description, justification, and estimate of the funding that would leave the state. The amount of funds that can leave the state will be subject to the final award agreement.