

# VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

## Instructions for Wright Center Endowment Fund Grant Applications

### A. Submission System – [REDCap](#)

Wright Center Endowment Fund grant applications should be submitted electronically through [REDCap](#) no later than **5:00PM** on the submission deadline date (**February 1, August 1, and November 1 for individual research applications and May 1 for multi-school applications**). In the event the submission deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, applications will be due by 5:00PM on the next business day.

### B. Application Requirements

- The applicant must complete/submit all parts of the application in REDCap. The applicant(s) and grant information and department chair endorsements will be entered directly into REDCap. All other parts of the application will be combined into a single .pdf document and the single file will be uploaded into REDCap. Please use the template found on the [Wright Center Funding website](#) for the application.
- Applicant(s) and grant information via REDCap
- Endorsement of department chairs via REDCap
- Funding history, documentation of current and previous funding
- List of collaborators
- Budget
  - Allowed costs are those for supplies, patient stipends, equipment not otherwise available, cost for use of shared resources, personnel costs as long as the expense is for the completion of a specific element of the research. Salary support for Investigators is **NOT** allowed.
  - Costs not funded by this award mechanism are faculty or investigator salary, travel funds, publication costs, remodeling costs, and patient hospital costs/visit fees.
  - Expenses in excess of \$500 must be itemized.
- Response letter (if revision) – 1 page maximum, detailing the responses to the critiques and the revisions to the grant application. Also, significant changes in the revised application should be highlighted with bold or italicized typeface.
- Description of the multi-disciplinary nature of the project (for multi-school applications ONLY) – 1 page maximum, including:
  - Description of the importance of the unique roles of each investigator to the success of the project
  - Description of how the synergy between the investigators will enhance the proposed project and the potential for external funding
- Lay abstract – 500 words maximum, summarizing the proposed research in language suitable for dissemination to the public. Emphasize the implications of the research as well as the benefits and expected outcomes.

- Description of public health impact – 500 words maximum, specifically describing how your research will progress to knowledge or a discovery that improves human health
- Specific aims – 1 page maximum
- Research proposal – 6 pages for individual research applications and 12 pages for multi-school applications maximum, following format specifications below and including:
  - Defined and testable hypothesis appropriate for the type of research
  - Background and significance
  - Preliminary data
  - Solid and well-designed research methods including adequate statistical and sample size calculations (as relevant to the project)
    - If the proposed research experiments involve the use of animals, discuss the precautions that will be used to ensure their safe and humane treatment.
    - If the experiments involve the use of agents that may be hazardous to personnel or animals, discuss the procedures that will be used to minimize such hazards.
  - Clear description of future research direction
  - Limitations of proposed research
- Bibliography – 2 pages maximum
- Current, NIH-formatted biosketch (for PI and collaborating faculty) –5 page maximum, with publications limited to those pertinent to the project or those submitted within the past 5 years
- For non-tenured faculty, letter(s) from Chair confirming employment and access to department resources throughout the funding period. This is in addition to the chair's signature on the application.
- Letters of scientific support (if applicable)
- NIH Summary Statements for those applications submitted to collect data in response to NIH reviewers' comments
- Appendices, if any

### **C. Re-submission Requirements**

- Unfunded applications may be re-submitted following the same guidelines as for the initial submission.
- All re-submitted applications MUST include a 1-page maximum response letter in which the Investigator responds to the critiques from the original review.
- Significant changes in the application from the original submission should be highlighted with bold or italicized typeface.

### **D. Format Specifications**

- Font
  - Use Arial 11 font
- Page Margins

- Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- Application Paging
  - The application must be single spaced.
  - Consecutively number all pages in the application starting with the Funding History being page 1.
- Figures, Graphs, Charts, and Tables
  - A minimum of a 10-point font size should be used
  - Include all figures, graphs, charts, and tables in the text of the research proposal. Any material included in an appendix may not be considered in the review process.
- Documents and File Names
  - Documents should be saved in \*.pdf format
  - All parts of the application should be contained in one file and named according to the following convention:
    - PI last name\_Date.pdf (e.g., Smith\_August2020.pdf)

#### **E. Review Process**

- All applications will be reviewed by internal and/or external faculty researchers and community reviewers, and the applicants will receive reviewers' comments regardless of whether their applications are funded.
- Applications will be reviewed based on the NIH criteria of significance, innovation, approach, investigators and environment. Applications judged to have a high potential for leading to external funding will receive priority with regard to funding.

**Incomplete applications, applications not prepared following the guidelines, or those from ineligible faculty will not be reviewed.**

#### **F. Awardee Responsibilities**

- IRB and IACUC approval (if needed) are required prior to release of funds.
- The PI will provide semi-annual progress reports, using the format supplied by the grantor, to the Scientific Review Coordinator, Dr. Pamela Dillon. Continuation of funding will be contingent on successful progress of the research and completion of the required reports.
- Within one month of the termination of the grant, the PI must submit electronically a final report (one to two pages) summarizing the results of the research and a financial report summarizing expenditures by category to Dr. Dillon.
- One year after the termination of the grant, the PI must submit electronically a list of publications and externally funded grants resulting from the Wright Center-funded work to Dr. Dillon.
- **Publications resulting from work supported by these funds must acknowledge VCU's CTSA (UL1TR002649 from the National Institutes of**

**Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Science) and the  
Wright Center Endowment Fund of the Virginia Commonwealth University.**

**G. Questions**

Please direct all questions to Dr. Pamela Dillon (827-1519, [pmdillon@vcu.edu](mailto:pmdillon@vcu.edu)).

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## Wright Center Endowment Fund Grant Checklist

1. \_\_\_ Wright Center Endowment Fund grant applications should be submitted through [REDCap](#) no later than **5:00PM** on the submission deadline date (February 1, August 1, and November 1 for individual research awards and May 1 for multi-school research awards). In the event that the submission deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, applications will be due by 5:00PM on the next business day.
  
2. \_\_\_ Grant has all required elements
  - Applicant(s) and grant information (directly in REDCap)
  - Endorsement of department chair(s) (directly in REDCap)

Following sections in a single .pdf document (uploaded into REDCap)

  - Previous and current funding (Page 1)
  - List of collaborators (Page 2)
  - Budget (Page 3)
  - Response letter, if revision (1 page *maximum*)
  - Description of the multi-disciplinary nature of the project, if applicable (1 page *maximum*)
  - Lay abstract (500 words *maximum*).
  - Description of public health impact (500 words *maximum*)
  - Specific Aims (1 page *maximum*)
  - Research proposal (6 or 12 pages *maximum*)
  - Bibliography (2 pages *maximum*)
  - NIH-formatted biosketches for PI and collaborators (5 pages *maximum/biosketch*)
  - Chair letter(s) (required for non-tenured faculty)
  - Letters of scientific support (if applicable)
  - NIH Summary Statements (if applicable)
  - Appendices (if applicable)
  
3. \_\_\_ Time elapsed between other internal funding meets eligibility criteria
  - New Investigator – No more than 1 other internal research grant in past 4 years
  - Senior Investigator – No internal research grants in past 4 years
  
4. \_\_\_ Full-time tenured or full-time non-tenured VCU campus faculty (multi-school applications must include PIs from at least two different VCU schools)
  
5. \_\_\_ Dollar limit not exceeded
  - \$50,000 for individual research awards
  - \$130,000 for multi-school research awards
  
6. \_\_\_ Budget complies with Allowable Expenses:
  - Publication costs **NOT** requested
  - Remodeling costs **NOT** requested
  - Travel costs **NOT** requested
  - Patient hospital daily costs and hospital visit fees **NOT** requested
  - Personnel funds **NOT** included except per guidelines