



Request for Scientific Grant Applications

Proposals Now Being Accepted

Thanks to all the continuing support of Floridians in purchasing the End Breast Cancer specialty plate as well as in the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation's network of breast cancer supporters, survivors and activists fighting to end breast cancer, we have invested over \$7M to fulfill our goal of dedicated funding for education and research programs in the state of Florida.

The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation (FBCF), along with those who generously support us with their talent, time and resources, is working to better the lives of those facing Breast Cancer in the Florida community. Grants are awarded in support of innovative education and research programs throughout Florida.

The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation is currently offering scientific grants for Pilot Program research projects, with a maximum of \$100,000 for a one year project. Preference will be given to new/first time applicants and to research applications that are a reflection of a collaborative and integrated multidisciplinary approach. The committee reserves the right to place limitations on awards.

Innovative projects can be in the areas of: basic, clinical, and translational breast cancer research and novel epidemiological studies of breast cancer, research on possible links between breast cancer and the environment, and psycho-immunological, research as examples.

Important Note

All requests for scientific research funding should be directed to the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation Scientific Committee. More information on funding opportunities is available at www.FloridaBreastCancer.org.

Letter of Intent Deadline is December 10, 2021

Application Deadline is February 18, 2022



2022 Priority Areas:

1. Basic, clinical (including novel diagnostic/therapeutic modalities), and translational breast cancer research.
2. Understanding the links between environmental factors and breast cancer in Florida.
3. Novel epidemiological studies to provide insight on opportunities for improving breast cancer detection and treatment in Florida.
4. Psycho-immunologic mechanisms and breast cancer progression: implications for improving outcomes.
5. Innovative awards and idea grants

All applications must cover at least one of the priority areas.

2022 Special Emphasis Areas

- Minority populations/disparities (high risk minority demographics/enrollment disparities)
- Pregnancy/postpartum
- Co-morbidities/adverse side effects

2022 Statement of Need:

The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation supports unique research projects or ideas (from small- to large-scale) that specifically focus on scientific and clinical breast cancer issues, which, if successfully addressed, could ultimately revolutionize the understanding and/or treatment of breast cancer and move closer to the goal of eradicating the disease. The critical components of this award mechanism are as follows:

Impact: The most important aspect of the grant is the potential of the proposed research to have a radical, revolutionary impact on an area of paramount importance in breast cancer. The potential impact may be near-term or long-term, but it must be transformative. It is the responsibility of the applicant to clearly and explicitly articulate the potential impact on breast cancer, including how it would be transformative.

Research Question: Research proposed under the grant must address an underexplored issue of critical significance in breast cancer. The FBCF particularly encourages applications that focus on less explored or poorly understood areas that are of high importance in breast cancer, such as those related to prevention, susceptibility, protection, recurrence, and metastasis. The proposed work must be based on a sound overall research strategy and may be from any discipline or combination of disciplines.

New Investigators and multi-disciplinary research teams: New investigators are considered to be in the first three years of a tenure-track position, or an equivalent independent research appointment, at their institution. Multi-disciplinary research teams can be composed of investigators from all levels but should involve expertise from at least two or more different disciplines, such as a basic cancer biologist teamed with a medical oncologist or a chemist.



Guidelines and Instructions for Applicants FBCF 2022-2023 Scientific Grant

Important Dates:

November 1, 2021	Announcement of RFP
December 10, 2021	Letter of Intent (LOI) due
February 18, 2022	Proposal Due
June 2022	Announcement of Grant Award Recipients
July 1, 2022	Grant Cycle Begins
June 30, 2023	End of Grant Cycle

Eligibility:

Only Florida-based non-profit community-based organizations that are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), Florida governmental entities, Florida-based tax-exempt educational institutions, and Indian tribes within the State of Florida, are eligible to apply for funding. Organizations registered as 501(c)(3) entities outside of Florida are eligible to apply if a physical presence is maintained within the state of Florida that is open and fully operating for 12 months a year. All activities funded through this competition must occur in Florida. All work must occur, and all funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities within Florida. Applications must be submitted in English.

Restrictions:

- Research must be conducted in the State of Florida.
- Funds will be limited to \$100,000 for 1 year including a maximum of 20% for indirect costs.
- Patient care costs and equipment costs are exempt from indirect costs (IDCs) calculations.
- When calculating salaries use the NIH cap of \$199,300.
- LOI must be submitted by due date. Grants that do not submit an LOI will not be accepted. Note that submission of an LOI is non-binding.
- If the applicant or any of its key employees, directors, officers, or agents are convicted of fraud or any crime involving other financial or administrative impropriety within the preceding 12 months, the applicant is not eligible to apply for a grant during the current funding cycle, and will not be eligible to apply for a new grant until the applicant can demonstrate that appropriate remedial measures have been implemented to mitigate any criminal conduct occurring in the future.

Review:

Applications received complete will be submitted for an initial compliance review by a panel established through the FBCF Scientific Grants Committee. Applicants will be given 3 working days to respond to any questions from the panel. Any questions will be addressed to the project director as indicated on the application.

After the compliance review, each grant application that met the guidelines will be reviewed for merit by at least three independent reviewers, including scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates. During the review and scoring they will consider each of the following selection criteria:

- Research Strategy and Feasibility

- How the scientific rationale supports the research and its feasibility, as demonstrated by a critical review and analysis of the literature and/or the presentation of preliminary data.
- How well the hypotheses, aims, experimental design, methods, and analyses are developed and integrated into the project.
- How well the Principal Investigator (PI) acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- Whether the proposal includes an appropriate statistical plan with power analysis, if applicable.
- Research Question
 - Whether the project addresses a critical yet underexplored area of paramount importance to breast cancer.
- Impact
 - How the proposed research, if successful, would revolutionize the understanding and/or treatment of breast cancer.
 - The potential for the proposed research to ultimately have a radical, transformative impact on breast cancer.
 - How the proposed research would move closer to the goal of eradicating breast cancer.
- Personnel
 - How the research team's background and expertise are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work and how multi-disciplinary teams are effectively addressing the goals of the research project.
 - Appropriateness of the levels of effort for successful conduct of the proposed work.
 - How applications from new investigators meet the criteria for this designation.
- Environment
 - How the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research.
 - How the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
 - How the quality and extent of institutional support are appropriate for the proposed research.

The grant application process is competitive, whether or not an organization has received a grant in the past. Funding in subsequent years is never guaranteed.

Agreements: A grant agreement will be the legal mechanism for funding. Grant Agreements will be executed between FBCF and the PI's institution. The primary institution will serve as the administrator of the grant funds and will hold responsibility for the disbursement of the funds to other participating institutions, management of the budget, and submission of all required documents and reports.

Grant period: Grant period begins July 1, 2022 and will conclude on June 30, 2023.

Payment and Reporting: The payment will be made no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the fully executed agreement. A progress report is due at the end of six (6) months of the agreement. A final report is due within sixty (60) days of completion of the grant period. An additional yearly outcomes report will be requested for up to 5 years.

Confirmation of receipt of application: Application receipt confirmation will be emailed to the project director following review for compliance to guidelines. Please do not contact The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation regarding the status of the application during the review period as information cannot be provided.

Announcement: Announcement of grants awarded will be made in June 2021. Project directors will be notified of the outcome of the review in writing.

Number of grants to be awarded: The actual number of awards will depend on the amount of funding granted per project.

LOI should include and be ordered as follows (form attached):

1. Names of project director, co-investigators, and collaborators
2. Institutional affiliations for all investigators and collaborators
3. Title of research project
4. Short Scientific Abstract (2,000 characters, with spaces)
5. 3-5 keywords

Applications should include and be ordered as follows:

Follow NIH guidelines for formatting.

1. Cover Page (Form Attached):

Signature of approving institutional personnel, other than project director, required. If appropriate, should include information that the application is from a new investigator or multi-disciplinary team.

2. Abstracts:

- Lay abstract (maximum 2,000 characters, with spaces): Summarize the research should so that is understandable to the lay public, explaining how the findings from the proposed research will lead to improvements in the prevention, detection, diagnosis or treatment of breast cancer.
- Scientific abstract (maximum 4,000 characters, with spaces): Summarize the research to include every major aspect of the proposed project, such as objectives, hypothesis and methods to be used as well as the innovation of the research design.
- Research Significance and Clinical Impact (maximum 4,000 characters, with spaces): Summarize the research issue(s) that will be addressed and describe the clinical impact and significance in terms of incidence and/or mortality reduction. Applicants should address the following points:
 - How the overarching research question(s), if successfully answered, will lead to new insight into prevention, detection, diagnosis or treatment of breast cancer.
 - How the outcomes from the proposed research plan will advance our knowledge of breast cancer in an important way and/or contribute to the way that we conduct breast cancer research.

3. Project Description (Narrative):

The full application narrative is restricted to no more than 7 pages. Below is a description of the narrative content that must be included in the full application and the recommended page length for each section. Applicants may exceed the recommended page length for a given section provided that the total narrative is no more than 7 pages, including figures and tables. The following sections are required content in the full application narrative, and more detailed descriptions of content to include in each section are provided below:

- **Research Questions, Hypothesis, and Specific Aims (1 page recommended)**
 - Outline the overarching research questions to be addressed, the hypothesis that will be tested in order to address these research questions, and the specific aims that will be necessary to address the stated hypothesis.
- **Background (1-2 pages recommended)**

Describe the scientific premise for the proposed work. Include the following:

 - Detailed description and citation of any related preliminary data and existing research findings
 - How the preliminary data and existing research findings support the hypothesis and specific aims proposed in the application
 - Data validating any existing animal models that are proposed to be used in the studies
 - Applicants are reminded that the State of Florida maintains a complete data list of all cancer incidence and recurrence. For more information on how to access this data refer to the Florida Cancer Data System(FCDS).

➤ **Innovation (1 page recommended)**

Provide a narrative that describes how the proposed work is paradigm shifting or involves new or emerging hypothesis, approaches, methods, instruments, or interventions that could influence basic, translational or clinical practice. The following components can be considered:

- A description of the status quo or current research through citations.
- A specific statement of how the proposed research is innovative and challenges or is different from the status quo.
- A description of new research/clinical directions, preferably relevant to the mission of FBCF, that will be attained through the innovations of the project.

➤ **Approach (3 pages recommended)**

Provide details about the approach that will be taken to accomplish the proposed research. Be sure to include the following:

- Rationale for the proposed aims and underlying hypotheses.
- Description of the experimental design and methodology in sufficient detail to demonstrate feasibility and expertise.
- Discussion of potential problems or limitations with the research design and the steps that will be taken to prevent and/or solve these problems
- Detailed plan for statistical analysis and reproducibility of results.
- Plan for accessing any biospecimens, animal models, and/or data necessary to successfully complete the proposed research.
- Research timeline that demonstrates thoughtful consideration of the variables involved in conducting the research, including plans for securing IACUC or IRB approvals in the event that animal use or human specimens are involved.

4. Research Biosketches (Limited to 5 pages each)

Research biosketches, using the NIH biosketch format, are required for ALL key research personnel, including the PI/Applicant, Co-PI (as applicable), and any other key persons named in the application.

- For new investigator applications, include in Part A (Personal Statement) a description of how receiving the award from FBCF will advance the growth of their research program in breast cancer.
- For applications from multi-disciplinary teams, include in Part A (Personal Statement) how each investigator contributes their unique expertise to the success of the proposed work.

5. Letters of Support from Collaborators (as applicable):

Letters of support must be provided from any collaborators critical to the successful conduct of the proposed research. These letters are NOT required from the Applicant or the Co-PI. Letters of support from collaborators should acknowledge their participation in the proposed research and confirm their contribution and availability.

6. Letters of Institutional Support:

Letters of institutional support must be provided from the applicant institution, institution of the Co-PI (if different from applicant institution, as applicable), and any other institutions that will be involved in subcontracts. The letters of institutional support should confirm institutional support of the research, including the availability of laboratory space, equipment and other resources necessary for the successful conduct of the research, and the willingness of the institution to accept the 20% indirect costs.

- For new investigators, a letter is required from their department chair or institutional official that includes the information requested above and also attests to their date of hire, rank in the institution along with the amount of protected time available to conduct research.

7. Facilities/Resources (limited to 4 pages):

A description of facilities, equipment and resources available to each investigator conducting the proposed research is required and should confirm the availability of and access to all drugs, biospecimens, animal models, equipment and/or data needed for successful completion of the proposed research.

8. References:

List publications cited in the application narrative. There is no limit to the number of publications that can be cited.

9. Financial Information

- Budget for requested funds.
- Budget Justification.
- List of other sources of current funding for the project.

10. Proof of non-profit and tax-exempt status for applicant institution.

The LOI and grant application **MUST** be submitted in electronic form,
and received no later than **December 10, 2021**

The grant application must be **MUST** be submitted in electronic form,
and received no later than **February 18, 2022**

When submitting the grant application electronically, please email the proposal to Jessica Kerr at:
Jessica@FloridaBreastCancer.org

Important: Failure to meet the above criteria will automatically exclude the grant application from being considered for review and hence, funding. Any applications submitted after the deadline will **NOT** be considered.