

Connecticut Innovations BioScience Pipeline Pilot Program

Purpose

A partnership between Connecticut Innovations (CI) and universities in Connecticut that could ultimately create local jobs, and enhance biomedical commercialization that positively impacts patient care while reducing healthcare costs.

Overview

The Connecticut Innovations BioScience Pipeline (CIBP) program provides competitive funding to advance new ideas to become investable business ventures that are highly competitive for the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund (CBIF) and other investment vehicles.

- **Awards: Milestone-based projects of up to \$30K/team over 12 months for business strategy, market definition, and prototyping/proof of concept activities**
- **Due dates: Applications must be submitted by 5 PM ET on the following deadlines:**
 - **October 9, 2015**
 - **May 6, 2016**
 - **October 7, 2016**
 - **April 21, 2017**

The program will be managed by a Leadership Council comprising members of Yale University, University of Connecticut, and Quinnipiac University. Leadership Council members will be the administrative leaders for applicants associated with their university. Applicants from outside of these universities will be assigned to a Leadership Council Member for evaluation. Overall administration will be led by the Yale Center for Biomedical and Interventional Technology (CBIT).

Eligibility Requirements

Established companies, faculty, or student teams may apply for the award. Groups must have an association with a Connecticut university. Acceptable but not required associations include: university-based intellectual property, recent alumni, research relationships, incubator companies, and other connections will be considered. Preference may be given during evaluation to have awards from a diversity of institutions.

Companies with more than 10 employees or that have received more than \$100,000 in funding are not eligible. Applicants that have applied for, but failed to secure a CBIF \$500K investment are encouraged to apply and use this award to address shortcomings cited in their CBIF investment review. Applicants that have a pending \$500K application with CBIF are eligible, though must state this in their application and are encouraged to share the CBIF application when submitting. If companies are chosen for both the \$500K award and \$30K award in parallel review processes, they will only receive the \$500K award.

Eligible fields include medical devices, drug delivery, diagnostics, and health IT. Ineligible fields include pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceuticals, or fundamental biology. The proposal should be targeted to a product and/or service concept. Basic science research is not eligible.

Award Selection and Administration

University representatives will review applications for completeness and basic eligibility requirements prior to submission. The Leadership Council will pre-select promising applications for the outside review based on selection criteria below. Final decisions on awards will be made by third party reviewers and will be communicated to applicants within approximately 90 days from submission.

Selection Criteria:

- 1) Magnitude and intensity of unmet medical need
- 2) Likelihood of technical success of proposed approach
- 3) Degree of innovation, IP strategy, access to required IP, and/or competitive strategy
- 4) Potential for a compelling product to emerge from the proposal, including passing through FDA clearance and value analysis
- 5) Likelihood of achieving external funding (CBIF \$500K investment, SBIR grant, angel investment, etc.) at the completion of this work
- 6) Quality and appropriateness of resource and team to execute

Milestone Negotiation and Fund Distribution:

The mechanism of funding distribution will depend on the composition of the team.

- Student/Faculty Group - For student/faculty teams that have not been incorporated, funding will be dispersed/transferred to the associated university from Connecticut Innovations/CBIF. The member of the Leadership Council at the University associated with the team will ensure that teams are making appropriate progress.

Funding will be managed and released from an account within the University to the student/faculty team upon completion of set milestones. No overhead will be charged on funding that flows to the student/faculty teams. Teams from universities not represented on the Leadership Council will need to identify an administrative lead at their university for progress reviews and funding distribution.

- Company - Funding will be dispersed/transferred directly from Connecticut Innovations/CBIF to successful company applicants. The member of the Leadership Council at the University associated with the team will be engaged and ensure that teams are making appropriate progress, and inform Connecticut Innovations/CBIF when milestones have been met.

Half of the funds awarded will be released to teams for use in the first 6 months of proposed effort. Proposals must contain a set of 6 month milestones. Each team must demonstrate attainment of milestone for release of the remaining tranche of funds: teams must submit a 6 month progress report which will be reviewed by the member of the Leadership Council associated with their institution in order to receive the second tranche. Tranching the money based on achievement of milestones not only keeps the participants focused on the project, but also allows any unspent funds that had been allocated to a terminated project to be redeployed.

Application

A single PDF must be submitted that contains the following sections and strictly adheres to page limits below. Applications should be submitted via <http://biopipelinect.org/>.

Inquiries may be directed to info@biopipelinect.org.

| | Page Limit |
|--|---------------|
| Project Abstract | Up to ½ page |
| Description of Relationship with a Connecticut university. Has a company been incorporated? If yes, describe size and stage. Please indicate in the application if the team has representation from more than one university. | Up to ½ pages |
| Unmet Clinical Need and Market | Up to 1 page |

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| Proposed Product Solution and Background/Preliminary Technical or Clinical Data | Up to 2 pages |
| Proposed Product Pathway– What are the biggest technical, clinical, and business gaps that need to be filled in order to be competitive for angel investment, CBIF \$500K investment, SBIR grant, or similar external funding? Specifically address your current understanding of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What proposed product will result from this work? • What is the regulatory path? • Is reimbursement required? • How will a doctor and hospital approach value analysis? • What are the most critical clinical assumptions that need to be verified? • What are the highest risk gaps in technical data? | Up to 2 pages |
| Specific Aims that address the Technical, Clinical, and Business gaps described above. | Up to ½ page |
| Plan to address the Technical, Clinical, and Business gaps | Up to 3 pages |
| Novelty of Approach, Intellectual Property Strategy, Competition | Up to ½ page |
| Selected references | As needed |
| Summary of team including business advisors, resources and environment | Up to 1 page |
| Candidate’s NIH-formatted biosketch for all Key Personnel http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc | Up to 4 pages |
| Other Support | As needed |
| Detailed Budget | As needed |
| Budget Justification | As needed |