



---

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **RFA R-22.1-RFT**

#### **Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Members**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on June 22, 2021**

**Application Receipt Dates:**

June 22, 2021-June 20, 2022

**FY 2022**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. ABOUT CPRIT</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1. ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM PRIORITIES .....	4
<b>2. RATIONALE</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5. FUNDING INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>6. ELIGIBILITY</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>7. RESUBMISSION POLICY</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA</b> .....	<b>10</b>
8.1. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES .....	10
8.2. APPLICATION COMPONENTS .....	11
8.2.1. <i>Summary of Nomination (2,000 characters)</i> .....	11
8.2.2. <i>Institutional Commitment (3 pages)</i> .....	11
8.2.3. <i>Letter of Support from Department Chair (1 page)</i> .....	13
8.2.4. <i>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</i> .....	13
8.2.5. <i>Summary of Goals and Objectives (2,000 characters)</i> .....	14
8.2.6. <i>Research (4 pages)</i> .....	14
8.2.7. <i>Publications/References (1 page)</i> .....	14
8.2.8. <i>Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)</i> .....	14
8.2.9. <i>Publications</i> .....	15
8.2.10. <i>Timeline (1 page)</i> .....	15
8.2.11. <i>Current and Pending Support</i> .....	15
8.2.12. <i>Letters of Recommendation</i> .....	15
8.2.13. <i>Research Environment (1 page)</i> .....	15
8.2.14. <i>Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)</i> .....	15
<b>9. APPLICATION REVIEW</b> .....	<b>16</b>
9.1. REVIEW PROCESS.....	16
9.1.1. <i>Confidentiality of Review</i> .....	16
9.2. REVIEW CRITERIA.....	17
<b>10. KEY DATES</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>13. CONTACT INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>21</b>
13.1. HELPDESK.....	21
13.2. SCIENTIFIC AND PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS .....	21

## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

6/22/21 RFA release

## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), which may issue up to \$6 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to do the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of or cures for cancer
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in the State of Texas
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan

### **1.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

The Texas Legislature has charged the CPRIT Oversight Committee with establishing program priorities on an annual basis. These priorities are intended to provide transparency with regard to how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure

#### **Priorities Across CPRIT's 3 Programs:**

- Prevention and early detection initiatives
- Translational of Texas research (discoveries) to innovations
- Enhance Texas' research capacity and life science infrastructure

The program priorities for academic research adopted by the Oversight Committee include funding projects that address the following:

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions

- Computational biology and analytic methods
- Childhood cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expand access to innovative clinical trials

## 2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract very promising investigators who are pursuing their first faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor (**first-time, tenure-track faculty members**). These individuals must have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation during predoctoral and/or postdoctoral research training, commitment to pursuing cancer research, and exceptional potential for achieving future impact in basic, translational, population-based, or clinical research. Awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research, thereby advancing cancer research efforts and promoting economic development in the State of Texas.

The recruitment of outstanding scientists will greatly enhance programs of scientific excellence in cancer research and will position Texas as a leader in the fight against cancer. Applications may address any research topic related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, or treatment. Candidates with research programs addressing **CPRIT's priority areas for research are encouraged**. These include implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions, computational biology and analytic methods, childhood cancers, hepatocellular cancer, and expansion of access to innovative clinical trials.

## 3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award mechanism is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. All candidates are expected to have completed their doctoral and fellowship training and to have clearly demonstrated truly superior ability as evidenced by their accomplishments during training, proposed research plan, publication record, and letters of recommendation. This CPRIT-supported initiative is designed to enhance

innovative programs of excellence by providing research support for promising, early-stage investigators **seeking their first tenure-track position.**

CPRIT will provide start-up funding for newly independent investigators, with the goal of augmenting and expanding the institution's efforts in cancer research. Candidates will be expected to develop research projects within the sponsoring institution. Projects should be appropriate for a newly independent investigator and should foster the development of preliminary data that can be used to prepare applications for future independent research project grants to further both the investigator's research career and the CPRIT mission. The institution will be expected to work with each newly recruited research faculty member to design and execute a faculty career development plan consistent with his or her research emphasis. Relevance to cancer research and to CPRIT's priority areas are important evaluation criteria for CPRIT funding.

Applications nominating individuals who are well prepared to pursue careers in patient-oriented research and who have demonstrated exceptional potential to lead innovative discovery campaigns through conduct of clinical trials are appropriate for this mechanism and encouraged.

Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

#### **4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT**

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of a first-time, tenure-track faculty must therefore be complemented by a strong institutional commitment to the candidate's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see [section 8.2.2](#)) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to

the candidate for his or her research program by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

## 5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This award is up to 5 years and is not renewable, although individuals may apply for other future CPRIT funding as appropriate. Grant funds of up to \$2,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested. Funding is to be used by the candidate to support his or her research program. The award request may include indirect costs of up to 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT will make every effort to be flexible in the timing for disbursement of funds; recipients will be asked at the beginning of each year for an estimate of their needs for the year. Funds may not be carried over beyond 5 years except under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification for a no-cost extension. In addition, funds for extraordinary equipment needs may be awarded in the first year of the grant if very well justified and a detailed justification is provided along with an institutional plan should the additional funds not be approved. Scholars may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

**Funds from this CPRIT award may not be used for salary support of this candidate or to construct or renovate laboratory space.**

No annual limit on the number of grant application submissions by Institutions has been set.

**Note:** Depending on the availability of funds, nominations submitted in response to this Request for Applications (RFA) during the current receipt period may be announced and awarded either in the current fiscal year (prior to August 31, 2022) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2022).

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any not-for-profit institution that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. A public or private company is not eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- Candidates must be nominated by the president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean of a Texas-based public or private institution of higher education, including academic health institutions. The application must be submitted on behalf of a specific candidate.

- A candidate may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given candidate, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- There is no limit to the number of applications that an institution may submit during a review cycle.
- A candidate who has already accepted a position as assistant professor tenure track at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the candidate for a recruitment award is not eligible for a recruitment award, as an investment by CPRIT is obviously not necessary. No award is final until approved by the Oversight Committee at a public meeting. However, in recognition of the timeline involved with recruiting highly sought-after candidates who are often considering multiple offers, CPRIT's Academic Research program staff will notify the nominating institution of the Scientific Review Council's review decision following the Scientific Review Council meeting. If a position is offered to the candidate during the period following the Scientific Review Council's review decision but prior to the Oversight Committee's final approval, the institution does so at its own risk. There is no guarantee that the recruitment award will be approved by the Oversight Committee.
- The candidate must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent, **and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment.** The candidate must devote at least 70% time to research activities. Candidates whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the candidate must **not** hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. Candidates holding non-tenure-track appointments at the rank of assistant professor are **not** eligible for this award. Examples of such appointments include research assistant professor, adjunct research assistant professor, assistant professor (non-tenure track).
- The candidate may or may not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted and may be nominated for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training or at another Texas institution.



- *Applications nominating a candidate for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training that do not clearly demonstrate a subsequent career pathway to independence for the candidate will not be looked upon with favor.*
- Successful candidates will be offered tenure-track academic positions at the rank of assistant professor.
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the nominator, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not the individuals will receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 11](#) and [section 12](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## 7. RESUBMISSION POLICY

Resubmissions will not be accepted for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members award mechanism. Any nomination for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. If a nomination was administratively rejected prior to review, it can be resubmitted in the following cycles.

## 8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

### 8.1. Application Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application is submitted. Candidates must be nominated by the institution's president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean. The individual submitting the application (Nominator) must create a user account in the system (which includes the Nominator's credentials and email address) to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official, who is the person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization, and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official, who is the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made, also must create a user account in CARS.

**Dependent upon available funding, applications will be accepted on a continuous basis throughout FY22.** In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month will be reviewed by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. For an application to be considered for review during the monthly cycle, that application must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time. In the event that the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on Saturday or Sunday, applications may be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time the following Monday. CPRIT will not extend the submission deadline. During periods when CPRIT does not receive an adequate number of applications, the review may be extended into the following month. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **8.2. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. For details, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document that will be available when the application receipt system opens. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### **8.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,000 characters)**

Provide a brief summary of the nomination. Include the candidate's name, organization from which the candidate is being recruited, and also the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the candidate will hold the faculty position.

### **8.2.2. Institutional Commitment (3 pages)**

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of a first-time, tenure-track faculty must therefore be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the candidate's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award.

***The following guidelines should be followed when documenting the institutional commitment to the candidate:***

- The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the candidate by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.
- The institutional commitment letter must include the following statement regarding the institution's financial commitment required to meet the 50% match.
  - This institutional financial commitment will not be offset by funds from a career transition award (K99/R00) or an investigator-initiated award received by the

candidate. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the candidate’s salary will be redirected to allow the candidate to use them for program support.

- Institutional commitment as described above must be presented in a table (example below) that clearly identifies the salary amount, sources of salary, and any additional research support from institutional sources over the course of the CPRIT award. Note that a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.
- Include a brief job description for the candidate should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the candidate including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel, access to students, space assignment, and access to shared equipment, and discuss all other agreements between the institution and the candidate.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a candidate’s research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a candidate’s cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a candidate with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on cancer research.
- Note that Texas law allows an institution of higher learning to use its federal indirect cost rate credit to comply with the requirement to demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award (see [section 12](#)). However, a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.

***Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:***

<b>Candidate’s Name, Institutional Commitments</b>					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Salary/Benefits					
Research Support					

Administrative Support					
Moving Expenses					

Total =

**Note:** CPRIT acknowledges that the institutional commitments by category may change during the course of the award; however, the total financial commitment to the candidate must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

### 8.2.3. Letter of Support from Department Chair (1 page)

Provide the letter of support from and signed by the chair of the department to which the candidate is being recruited. The following information should be included in the letter:

**Recruitment Activities:** The letter should provide a description of the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to the nomination of this candidate.

**Caliber of Candidate:** The letter should include a description of the caliber of the candidate and justification of the nomination of the candidate by the institution.

#### **Description of Candidate Duties and Certification of 70% Time Commitment to Research:**

While scholars may engage in direct patient care activities and/or have some administrative or teaching duties, at least 70% of the candidate’s time must be available for research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding. The certification that 70% time will be spent on research must be included.

The letter of support from the department chair must also do the following:

1. Describe how the candidate will be independent and autonomous in developing his or her research program at the institution.
2. Present a plan for mentoring that includes the design and execution of a faculty career development plan for the candidate.

### 8.2.4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the candidate. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication (“in press”) should be cited.

### **8.2.5. Summary of Goals and Objectives (2,000 characters)**

List goals and objectives to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the candidate.**

### **8.2.6. Research (4 pages)**

Summarize the key elements of the candidate's research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, goals, and projected impact of the focus of the research program. Highlight the innovative aspects of this effort and place it into context with regard to what pressing problem in cancer will be addressed. **This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate. References cited in this section should be included in the Publications/References section (see 8.2.7).**

Candidates for CPRIT Scholar Awards must include the following signed statement at the end of this section. **Applications that do not contain this signed statement will be returned without review.**

"I understand that I do not need to have made a commitment to <nominating institution> before this application has been submitted. However, I also understand that only 1 Texas institution may nominate me for a CPRIT Recruitment Award, and this is the nomination that I have endorsed. I understand that requests to change the recruiting institution during the recruitment process are not allowed after the application is submitted to CPRIT."

### **8.2.7. Publications/References (1 page)**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application. Any appropriate citation format is acceptable; official journal abbreviations should be used.

### **8.2.8. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)**

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a candidate's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a candidate's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a candidate with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research, such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been

directly focused on cancer research. Biographical sketches of collaborators established in the research collaborative plan must be uploaded as part of the application. This will be in addition to the 2-page synergy plan (see IFA).

### **8.2.9. Publications**

Provide the 3 most significant publications that have resulted from the candidate's research efforts. Publications should be uploaded as PDFs of full-text articles. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication ("in press") should be submitted.

### **8.2.10. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide a general outline of anticipated major award outcomes to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

### **8.2.11. Current and Pending Support**

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate. If the candidate has no current or pending funding, a document stating this must be submitted. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

### **8.2.12. Letters of Recommendation**

Provide 3 letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to detail the candidate's academic and scientific research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research.

### **8.2.13. Research Environment (1 page)**

Clearly and concisely describe the research environment available to support the candidate's research program, including core facilities, training programs, and collaborative opportunities.

### **8.2.14. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)**

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the candidate, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to

cancer research, and a brief overview of the candidate's goals if selected to receive the award.

**This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate.** If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website.

Candidates are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

**Applications that are missing 1 or more of these components; exceed the specified page, word, or budget limits; or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively withdrawn without review.**

## **9. APPLICATION REVIEW**

### **9.1. Review Process**

All eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council using the criteria listed in this RFA. Applications may be submitted continuously in response to this RFA but will generally be reviewed on a monthly basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of candidates. Scientific Review Council members will review applications and provide an individual Overall Evaluation Score that conveys the members' recommendation related to the proposed recruitment.

Applications recommended by the Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review, prioritization, and recommendation to the CPRIT Oversight Committee for approval and funding. Approval is based on an application receiving a positive vote from at least two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703.](#)

The decision of the Scientific Review Council not to recommend an application is final, and such applications may not be resubmitted for a recruitment award. Notification of review decisions is sent to the nominator.

#### **9.1.1. Confidentiality of Review**

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Scientific Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with



access to grant application information are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Scientific Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT’s Administrative Rules, Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant’s behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, or a Scientific Review Council member.

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention and Communications Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

## **9.2. Review Criteria**

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the candidate and his or her potential for continued superb performance as a cancer researcher. **Also, of critical importance is the strength of the institutional commitment to the candidate. Recruitment efforts are not likely to be successful unless there is a strong commitment from both CPRIT and the host institution.** It is not necessary that a candidate agree to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have reasonable expectation that the recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the candidate, his or her proposed research program, and his or her long-term contribution to and impact on the field of cancer research. Questions to be considered by the reviewers are as follows:

**Quality of the Candidate:** Has the candidate demonstrated academic excellence? Has the candidate received excellent predoctoral and postdoctoral training? Does the candidate show exceptional potential for achieving future impact on basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research in the future? Has the candidate demonstrated a commitment to cancer research? Has the candidate demonstrated independence or the potential for independence?

**Scientific Merit of Proposed Research:** Is the research plan comprehensive and well thought out? Does the proposed research program demonstrate innovation, creativity, and feasibility? Will it have a significant impact on the field of cancer research? Will the proposed research generate preliminary data that can be used for the preparation of applications for future independent research project grants?

**Relevance of Candidate's Research:** Is the proposed research likely to have a significant impact on reducing the burden of cancer in the near term? Does the research contribute to basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research?

**Letters of Recommendation:** Do the letters of recommendation detail the candidate's academic and clinical research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research?

**Research Environment:** Does the institution have the necessary facilities, expertise, and resources to support the candidate's research? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the candidate be free of major administrative/clinical responsibilities so that he or she can focus on growing his or her research? Has the institution identified a mentor who will design and execute a faculty career development plan for the candidate?

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA Release

June 22, 2021

### Application Receipt and Review Timeline

<b>Application Receipt System opens 7 AM CT</b>	<b>Application Receipt</b>	<b>Anticipated Application Review</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>
June 22, 2021	Continuous – dependent upon available funding	Monthly by the 15 <sup>th</sup> day of the month	June 20, 2022

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Awards made under this RFA are not transferable to another institution. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT’s electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT’s electronic signature policy as set forth in Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT’s Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

Applicants are advised to review CPRIT’s Administrative Rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. CPRIT requires funding acknowledgement to include the award grant ID on all print and visual materials that are funded in whole or in part by CPRIT grants. Examples of print and visual materials include, but are not limited to, publications, brochures, pamphlets, project websites, videos and media materials. Grantees must have written approval from CPRIT prior to the purchase of any equipment. If the equipment is clearly defined in the grantee's budget submitted with the initiating award requirements, then approval of the grant award constitutes "prior approval" for the purchase. Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

**Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports.** Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## **12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#), for specific requirements regarding the demonstration of available funding.

## **13. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **13.1. Helpdesk**

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff members are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific aspects of applications.

**Hours of operation:** Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

Questions regarding the CPRIT Program, including questions regarding this or other funding opportunities, should be directed to the CPRIT Senior Program Manager for Academic Research.

**Email:** [Research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:Research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)