THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NIH, Modern Equipment for Shared-use Biomedical Research Facilities: Advancing Research-Related Operations (R24 Clinical Trials Not Allowed) (PAR-22-190)

Date: August 10, 2022

UNM Researchers,

The NIH invites qualified academic or research institutions to apply for support to purchase and install advanced equipment to enhance and modernize research-supporting operations of biomedical research facilities. Targets are core facilities, animal research facilities, and other research spaces that are used on a shared basis. The goal is to strengthen research-auxiliary activities of biomedical research facilities and to enhance their operational efficacy. It does not support the purchase of scientific research instruments, their components, or components of building-level infrastructure equipment that indirectly support research activities.

Animal research facilities are one of the targeted research spaces. Examples of supported equipment include, but are not limited to, ventilated cages for rodents, aquatic animal systems equipped with water quality assessment tools, and automated feeding systems to aid the consistency and accuracy of animal care.

Core laboratories and specialized facilities are other targeted spaces. Without access to modern research facilities with well-controlled environments that are furnished with specialized support equipment, many research functions are not feasible. Modern biobanking and cryopreservation systems, assisted with robotic arms and other high-throughput tools, are examples of such equipment.

Equipment supported by this opportunity differs in its functionality from scientific research instruments, but such equipment is critically needed to advance and accelerate the operations of research facilities and, as a result, contributes indirectly to the overall advancement of scientific research. Any equipment acquired under this program must benefit the larger biomedical research enterprise at the applicant institution. The application narrative should demonstrate that the equipment request is driven by the demands of active areas of biomedical research at the institution. The facility may serve investigators whose research is supported by the NIH, other Federal agencies, private foundations, institutional funds, or other sources. Current NIH research funding is not a requirement for a successful application. When functional, the requested equipment should enable new capabilities, offer innovative technological solutions, or enhance support operations. It should also benefit the user community, as well as multiple research projects of many investigators. Maintaining current research functions and replacing broken equipment are not supported activities.

The full solicitation can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-190.html.

The maximum budget allowed is $350,000 in direct costs. Applications with budgets less than $50,000 will not be considered. Full proposals are due **November 7, 2022.**

This is a limited competition. Only **ONE** application per institution is allowed. Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal (plus budget and CV) by **NOON on Thursday, September 1, 2022** via UNM's InfoReady Review portal **https://unm.infoready4.com/.** No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the major requirements of the proposal:

- *Description of the Facility* should include information about the location of the facility, areas of research supported, types of research services offered, and the research community that depends on services provided by the facility. The PD/PI should demonstrate that the facility is used on a shared basis and describe its role in supporting the institutional research enterprise.
- The *Modernization Plan* should describe the equipment requested and demonstrate that the chosen model(s), when installed, will optimally address current deficiencies, and meet research-driven demands. Issues related to the management of access to, operating the equipment, and long-term maintenance should also be addressed to demonstrate the utility of the project.
- *Justification of the Equipment Requested* should describe how the proposed equipment will remedy the infrastructure's deficiencies, improve the facility's operations, modernize the facility's environment, or streamline its management.
- If applicable, the PD/PI should describe NIH-funded research awards that will benefit from the project. The PD/PI should demonstrate broader benefits for the user community. To add to the justification, the PD/PI should also demonstrate how the project will benefit institutional biomedical research programs over the long term.

The 3-page narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated CV**.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competitions for more information at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu.