

INVESTMENT GRANTS

Frequently Asked Questions

How often will this page be updated?

The page will be updated when new questions are posed by applicants. Applicants are encouraged to check this page on a regular basis and always before sending a question to amfAR.

This update: 6 August 2015

Questions and answers added after 28 June are highlighted in yellow

The FAQ are categorized in this order:

- 1. PI (NON-HIV SCIENTIST) ELIGIBILITY**
- 2. DEFINITION OF HIV CURE RESEARCH AND HIV CURE CO-INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY**
- 3. PROPOSED RESEARCH AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
- 4. USE OF FUNDS**
- 5. USING THE PORTAL**

PI (NON-HIV SCIENTIST) ELIGIBILITY

How is PI eligibility determined?

- The PI must have spent the majority of his/her recent research efforts outside the field of HIV as evidenced their publication history or other indicators of their contribution to science
- Must hold a doctoral-level degree
- Must hold a faculty-level position (assistant professor level or higher) at a nonprofit research institution
- Must collaborate with an **experienced HIV cure research scientist**

I am an adjunct professor, am I eligible to apply?

No, the PI must hold a faculty-level position of assistant professor or higher at a nonprofit research institution.

Do PIs or other personnel supported with grant funds have to be U.S. citizens?

No. amfAR sets no citizenship or residency requirements for PIs or other individuals working on a grant. Because grants are awarded to institutions, the institution is responsible to ensure compliance with regulations that apply to salary or other payments to personnel and consultants.

DEFINITION OF HIV CURE RESEARCH

How is “cure research” defined?

“Cure” is defined as a situation in which a person with HIV infection can (1) live a normal, healthy lifespan; (2) in the absence of any medications or therapies; (3) without the risk of transmitting the virus to others. Specifically, “cure research” will provide the information necessary to:

Chart: pinpoint the precise anatomical and/or cellular locations of reservoirs of persistent HIV;

Understand: determine how reservoirs are formed and persist;

Record: develop improved methods to quantify the amount of virus in the reservoirs;

Eradicate the (replication-competent viral) reservoirs from the body

HIV CURE CO-INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

How is “HIV cure investigator” defined?

An eligible HIV cure investigator must have a track record of HIV cure research, including experience in animal or clinical studies. A track record could be established by, for example, three first-author publications in HIV cure research, or one last-author publication AND presentations at HIV-related conferences.

How long must the PI collaborate with the HIV cure research scientist?

The PI must collaborate with the HIV cure research scientist throughout the 4-year performance period.

Can this submission be the first collaboration between the PI and the HIV cure research scientist?

Yes, this can be the first collaboration.

PROPOSED RESEARCH AND SUBMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Are both animal and clinical studies required?

We expect that most applications will propose very novel approaches to HIV cure research and thus require both an *in vivo* animal component and, at least, an *ex vivo* human component. In cases where an *in vivo* clinical component is proposed, an *in vivo* animal component is optional. However, it must be noted that the spirit of the RFP intends on bringing approaches that are novel enough to HIV cure research that they may first require proof of concept studies in animals.

May we submit a proposal that builds upon and improves an application that was previously submitted to amfAR but not approved for funding?

Yes, if the PI is from outside the field of HIV (i.e., the original PI should NOT be the PI on the new application) and if the proposed research is relevant this RFP which seeks projects that involve the application of techniques, treatments, molecular tools, or approaches that have shown sufficient success in improving disease outcomes in other fields to achieving a cure for HIV.

May a PI submit more than one LOI?

Yes. If it were to happen that more than one of the LOIs you submit results in an invitation to submit an application, only one of those applications would be funded.

Is an institution signature or approval required on an LOI?

No, amfAR does not require institution signature on an LOI. However, if an application is invited, institution signature will be required. Applicant PIs are also advised that they are responsible for ensuring compliance with their institution's guidelines for the submission of funding proposals.

Do I have to submit biographical sketches for all of the key personnel identified in the LOI?

Submit biographical sketches only for the PI, the identified experienced HIV scientist, co-investigators and others who will make similarly substantive contributions to the proposed research, whether salary support is requested or not. Please keep in mind, however, that the key personnel list should include all personnel and consultants who would receive salary or other financial support from grant.

USE OF FUNDS**Are subcontracts to for-profit organizations allowed?**

Yes, subcontracts to for-profit organizations are allowed with the understanding that such subcontracts will be limited to the actual costs of the scope of work supported.

What personnel costs are allowed?

Grant funds may be used to support personnel costs (e.g., salary, wages, stipends, fringe benefits) relative to the percent effort dedicated to the proposed research. Grant-funded compensation must be consistent with compensation paid to other institution staff in similar positions regardless of the source of support.

What is amfAR's policy on indirect costs for this RFP?

The \$1M maximum grant amount includes indirect costs at a maximum rate of 20% of direct costs excluding the full amount of subawards. Amounts paid to subawards may include indirect costs at maximum 20% rate.

Should I submit a budget with my LOI?

No, budgets are not required at the LOI stage.

USING THE PORTAL**Do I need separate log-in to submit more than one LOI?**

No, you should use the same log-in for all submissions from the same PI. Start each submission using the "start LOI" link which was provided with your credentials.

How do I give portal access to someone else who is working with me on my LOI?

You will have to share your log-in with colleagues who are collaborating with you. You can change your password after they have provided assistance by clicking on "my profile" and selecting the change password tab. DO NOT ASSIGN PORTAL PERMISSIONS TO CONTACTS OTHER THAN THE PI.

(Do not change your organization information in the portal. If you need to change your organization, please e-mail grants@amfar.org with an explanation of the requested change and we will be glad to assist.)

Can another PI use my log-in credentials to submit an LOI?

No, each PI should request their own log-in credentials.