

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2012 Tobacco Settlement Funds
for Health Research

Dear Colleagues,

Lehigh University is eligible to receive \$80,151 this year as our 2012 share of state tobacco settlement (CURE) formula funds. CURE formula funds, a portion of funds received annually under Pennsylvania's settlement with tobacco companies, are administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) in accordance with Act 77 of 2001, the Tobacco Settlement Act. We may use the funds to support research related to human health, after approval by DOH of our spending plan. We are permitted to include a number of individual projects, with total costs (direct plus indirect costs) not to exceed the total award. The Act places particular priority on

- research in the natural sciences related to human disease and mechanisms thereof
- research on promotion and maintenance of health, including bio behavioral research
- research on the prevention and reduction of disease
- research on the delivery of health care services to reduce health risks and transfer research advances to community use
- patient-oriented research including epidemiological and behavioral studies and the development of new technology

The DOH expects the ultimate goal of the research to be improved health status and access to care. This need not, however, be an immediate outcome of the project.

Internal Call for White Papers

We ask Lehigh faculty members to propose use of appropriate portions of these funds to sustain and expand Lehigh's portfolio of health-related research.

The proposed project should be directed toward

- seeding new research with good prospects for becoming self-sustaining,
- expanding the scope or real-world impact of existing programs,
- establishing or re-establishing continuity of extramural funding for an existing project,
or
- otherwise catalyzing or expanding health-related research programs.

Projects aimed at adding a new dimension to an existing program, including adding a new investigator to an existing group, are encouraged, as are projects aimed at establishing viability of a brand new line of research. Proposals to apply existing areas of strength to new lines of research are also encouraged.

Proposals to support work necessary for substantive response to a recent peer review, for new or continuing projects, are welcomed, particularly with cost sharing by departments, institutes/centers or colleges. For such “bridge funding” proposals, please include a copy of the peer review and explain in your project description how the project will enable you to satisfy the reviewers’ concerns or position the project for support from another source.

Generally, funds should be used to support research activity and cannot be used to support remodeling of facilities. Funds may be used for acquisition of equipment provided that the goals described above are supported. Proposals to use a large portion of funds for purchase of equipment must describe how the equipment will be maintained and must present a strong case as to how availability of the equipment will enable scope and impact of research beyond what would otherwise be possible.

White Paper Contents

Project description. (Not to exceed three pages) Begin with a one-paragraph abstract, followed by a more detailed description of the project.

Personnel. List the faculty members involved and their roles in the project. While collaborations are encouraged, DOH reporting requirements dictate that one person take on the responsibilities of Principal Investigator.

Expected outcomes and plan. (One to two paragraphs) Describe the expected outcomes of the project in terms of new data, ideas tested or refined, etc., and your likely next steps after completion of the project. Describe what you or your group hopes to be able to do because of having completed the project.

Programmatic impact. (One to two paragraphs) Discuss potential programmatic impact for Lehigh. For example, might the project serve to expand a nascent cluster of researchers? Might it serve to show feasibility of a line of research that fits our talents and priorities? Might it provide critical preliminary results that will convince reviewers of our capabilities?

Potential health impact. (One paragraph) Describe the **potential** long-term impact of the project, with reference to the ultimate goal of Tobacco Formula funded research of improving health status and access. Such outcomes may be well into the future but the research should be tied in a tangible way to the ultimate goal.

Budget. Provide a detailed budget. Include documentation of any sources of cost sharing. Funding of faculty salaries is not permitted. **Your direct cost budget, not including any cost sharing, may be in the range of \$5,000 to \$25,000.** Do not include indirect costs, as they will be determined separately. **Your budget must be appropriate for the proposed work, and the work you propose must be appropriate for your goals.** Funding may not be used to replace current funding for an ongoing project.

Review Process and Selection Criteria:

White papers will be reviewed by the Vice President for Research in consultation with the College Deans. Reviews will consider

- the scholarly merit of the proposed work,
- the potential impact of the work, including its potential to enable a sustained research program for the applicants and for Lehigh,
- the quality of the research plan,
- the appropriateness of the proposed work and the budget to achieve the stated outcomes,
- the degree to which the Tobacco Settlement award is a unique opportunity to support the project, and
- support of a suitable mix of projects with available funds.

DOH proposal process and reporting

Faculty members whose projects are funded will be expected to assist in drafting of the spending plan in the format required by the DOH.

For studies involving human subjects, DOH requires IRB approval **before** submission of the spending plan. Applicants must therefore be prepared for prompt IRB submission. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns about this requirement.

The Principal Investigator will be responsible for reporting on project outcomes. DOH requires annual reporting as well as reporting around the fourth anniversary of the award, along with response to evaluative comments by DOH-selected peer reviewers. The Principal Investigator must contribute to these reports, with considerable assistance from the office of the VPR and ORSP.

Timeline

- **Tuesday, October 11, 8:00 a.m.** White papers must be received by Pamela Wheat at pds205@lehigh.edu
- **Monday, October 31.** Faculty members notified of the status of their proposals.
- **mid to late December** (due date pending from DOH) Submission to DOH. This will allow 7 weeks for IRB consideration and preparation of the spending plan in the DOH-prescribed format.