

Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) 2010 Grant Offerings Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ addresses key issues for LSDF 2010 Grant Offerings and may be amended in response to questions received from the applicant community. In the event of a discrepancy between this FAQ and the Request for Proposals (RFP), Opportunity Grant Description, or the Opportunity Grant Proposal Submission Requirements (PSR), the RFP, Opportunity Grant Description, or PSR shall take precedence. Questions about specific grant offerings (program, commercialization or opportunity) may be addressed to LSDF by e-mail (programs@lsdfa.org) or telephone (206-732-6777).

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2010 GRANT OFFERINGS

- Program competitions no longer require submission of a letter of intent.
- All forms have been revised – please do not use old forms.
- Increased emphasis on resource commitments by applicant organizations.
- Corporate involvement more clearly defined.
- LSDF is offering a second round of the 2010 commercialization grant competition.

Important Dates for 2010 LSDF Grant Offerings (Revised July 20, 2010)

	Program Grants	Commercialization Grants – Round 2	Opportunity Grants
Release of RFP or Opportunity Grant Description/PSR	January 6	July 20	June 23
Pre-proposals due		August 18	
Pre-proposal review meeting/PI interviews		September 16-17	
Revised RFP release	May 25		
Proposals due	September 16	October 27	Ongoing
Commercial review meeting/PI teleconference		January 5, 2011	
Interviewees announced	February 1, 2011		
Interviews	Week of March 28, 2011		
Board of Trustees Proposal Evaluation	April 26, 2011	February 1, 2011	Ongoing

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KEY FEATURES OF LSDF PROPOSALS

What are the most important features of each of the three different types of LSDF grant offerings?

- Key features of program, commercialization and opportunity grants are summarized below (the RFP, Opportunity Grant Description, or PSR should be consulted for more information):

	Program	Commercialization	Opportunity
Award intent	Support launch and development of synergistic, collaborative research or infrastructure initiatives that address major problems within a field of study and position organizations for leadership. Programs are expected to evolve and endure. Significant organizational commitment required.	Fund small-scale, highly targeted studies to advance commercializable projects to a stage appropriate for licensing, start-up company formation or private investment.	Support compelling proposals having an urgency or nature that cannot be aligned with LSDF's annual competition cycles and the ability for LSDF to significantly leverage its investment against funding from other sources.
Scope of work	Broad, addressing a theme in health care or enabling research across a variety of disciplines with statewide benefit; typically inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional.	Limited to a small set of key experiments to reduce the risk of commercialization	No limitation on scope
Award amount and duration	As appropriate	\$150,000; one year	As appropriate
Funds allocated for 2010	\$10 million	\$750,000 per round	TBA

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who may apply for LSDF funding?

A: Applicants must be Washington State entities. Refer to the RFP or Opportunity Grant Description for more information.

Q: Who within eligible organizations may apply?

A: Applications are made by the Principal Investigator for the proposed activities. Principal Investigators must meet the requirements of their employer regarding such status. A completed face page must be submitted with every LSDF proposal; the face page requires the signature of the authorizing individual (the person with authority to commit the applicant organization to the implementation of the proposed work). Principal Investigators may not authorize proposals from their own organizations.

Q: May funds be subcontracted to a for-profit entity?

A: Funds may be subcontracted to a for-profit entity provided that their expenditure by the for-profit entity:

- enhances the grantee's ability to meet the stated goals of the proposed activities;
- brings clear benefit to the grantee organization; and,
- brings clear benefit to the State of Washington.

NECESSITY FOR LSDF INVESTMENT

Q: What does the LSDF mean when it asks Principal Investigators to explain why the proposed work cannot be accomplished without LSDF's investment? Clearly, Principal Investigators would not be applying for LSDF support if they did not need the funds.

A: LSDF seeks unique opportunities for investment in activities with strong potential to improve health and health care, research competitiveness, and economic vitality in Washington State. LSDF awards are not intended to replicate or replace funding from other granting sources or from private investors. Principal Investigators must clearly articulate why funding from other sources is not available for the proposed project and how their work advances the mission of LSDF.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Q: How do you apply for an LSDF grant?

A: Proposals and, for commercialization and opportunity grants, pre-proposals, are submitted by Principal Investigators through LSDF's online application system. Principal Investigators must create an account within the system (www.lsdfa.org/grants/apply.html) before applying for the first time. Each grant offering has specific requirements; refer to the RFP, Opportunity Grant Description, or PSR for more detailed instructions.

Q: What is the deadline for proposal submissions?

A: The deadlines for 2010 grant offerings can be found above in "What's New." All submissions are due no later than 5:00 pm Pacific Time on the deadline date. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Q: What proposal elements are required?

A: Proposals consist of a narrative, budget and related attachments.

Q: Are resubmissions of proposals allowed?

A: Yes. There is no limit on the number of times a proposal may be resubmitted. However, a Principal Investigator may submit or resubmit only one proposal to each grant offering.

Q: Is LSDF requiring submission of a letter of intent (LOI) for the 2010 program competition?

A: No.

Q: Is LSDF requiring submission of a pre-proposal for the 2010 commercialization and opportunity grant offerings?

A: Commercialization: Yes.

A: Opportunity: Yes, and opportunity grant pre-proposal submitters may need to meet with LSDF staff to ensure that their "opportunities" are consistent with the opportunity grant goals.

Q: Do pre-proposals require a signed face page for submission?

A: No.

Q: Can a Principal Investigator submit the same proposal to multiple grant offerings?

A: Yes, although it's highly unlikely that this would be a productive course, since each has a unique focus and requirements. Principal Investigators should take the time to understand the differences between each grant offering to determine which one is best suited for their particular proposal.

Q: Can the same individual appear on more than one proposal?

A: Individuals may not submit multiple proposals as Principal Investigator to the same grant offering. A Principal Investigator may serve as a co-Investigator on other proposals submitted to the same grant offering.

Q: Are LSDF grant offerings carried out in a confidential manner?

A: Yes. LSDF holds all applications confidential, subject to the public disclosure laws of the State of Washington (see RCW 42.56 and the amendments to the exemption provisions in RCW 42.56.270(14)). LSDF requires grant reviewers to sign confidentiality agreements. LSDF reserves the right to publicly disseminate information about proposals received and grants made through a variety of means, but will not disseminate confidential information of grantees without prior permission.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Q: What are the components of the detailed budget?

A: The LSDF detailed budget is similar to the NIH detailed budget format; the personnel category must include the name, role, percent effort and associated salary and benefit information for each person requesting salary support. For the other budget categories, an itemized listing of proposed expenditures by general subcategory is required.

A detailed budget justification must also accompany the detailed budget. The justification should provide sufficient information to allow expert reviewers to determine that the budget is appropriate for the proposed work.

Q: Do co-applicants have to submit detailed budgets as well?

A: Yes, the same detail is required for all co-applicants.

Q: Are there any special expectations regarding budgets for proposals involving companies?

A: Yes. Principal Investigators must provide justification for expenses incurred by for-profit subcontractors and must describe how the for-profit subcontracted work:

- enhances the grantee's ability to meet the stated goals of the proposed work;
- brings clear benefit to the grantee organization; and
- brings clear benefit to the State of Washington.

Companies requesting subcontract funds must make either financial or significant in-kind commitments to the proposed work. Administrative and facilities expenses incurred by for-profit subcontractors are not reimbursable by LSDF.

Q: Does LSDF pay for indirect costs?

A: Yes. LSDF will not allow the federally negotiated facilities and administration (F&A) rate to be used, but will pay the true and actual costs associated with the proposed activities, such as facilities charges, IRB review, administrative support, and the components typically associated with F&A.

OTHER APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Q: What is the purpose of the "resource/expenditure summary" form?

A: LSDF is committed to leveraging its support against that from other sources. The form allows Principal Investigators to quantify the value of tangible resources provided by other entities that will facilitate accomplishment of the proposed activities.

Q: Why do the 2010 applications require organizational commitment information in so many different places?

A: Our 2010 grant offerings allow Principal Investigators to capture, quantify and explain in greater detail the commitments their organizations, co-applicants or collaborators are contributing towards their proposals. Having three separate locations may initially seem cumbersome, but these are tools which will allow the LSDF Board of Trustees to more thoroughly understand the scope of commitments made to individual

proposals. There are three separate locations within each proposal where commitments are discussed.

- The first location is on the one-page “organizational commitments” section; this section allows the PIs to provide the details of the proposed commitments.
- The second location is on the one-page “resource/expenditure summary” form, which is a spreadsheet that captures and calculates the monetary amounts associated with these commitments.
- The third location is on the “personnel roster” form. The completed form lists all personnel involved in the proposal and indicates whether any of the salary is derived from non-LSDF sources.

It is extremely important for PIs to ensure that the information is consistent and clearly presented on all three of the required forms.

Q: Why do the 2010 applications require that applicants only use the LSDF format biographical sketch? Can I substitute the LSDF form with an NIH biographical sketch?

A: All 2010 grant offerings use a harmonized set of forms; applicants are required to use only the forms provided.

A: No, you cannot substitute using the NIH biographical sketch in place of the LSDF form. The forms look very similar, but LSDF requires additional information on its biographical sketch.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS RESEARCH

Q: Will LSDF fund proposals involving human subjects?

A: Yes. The applicant organization must ensure that all research sites and studies operate under an appropriate Office of Human Research Protections-approved assurance (*i.e.* Federal Wide Assurance number) for the protection of human subjects and comply with all Department of Health and Human Services human-subjects-related policies.

Q: Will LSDF fund proposals involving vertebrate animals?

A: Yes. The applicant organization must ensure that all research sites and studies operate under an appropriate Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare-approved assurances for the protection of animal subjects and comply with all Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC)-related policies.

Q: Must I already have human subjects or vertebrate animal use approval at the time I submit my application?

A: No, but the necessary approvals will need to be in place prior to initiation of any human or vertebrate animal studies.

Q: Can a proposal include the use of human stem cells?

A: LSDF has no restrictions on the source or use of stem cells, subject to standard institutional/organizational approvals.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Q: Does LSDF take ownership of intellectual property (IP) developed under activities that it funds?

A: No; normally, IP resulting from funded activities will be owned by the parties that developed it. Any departure from this principle must be described and justified in the proposal. Appropriate collaboration agreements must be in place according to the milestone schedule negotiated during completion of the grant agreement.

Q: Does LSDF share in the financial rewards associated with licensing of intellectual property developed under its grants?

A: Yes. If a funded proposal earns more than 7.5 times the grant amount in licensing and royalty income attributable to intellectual property developed under LSDF funding, the grant becomes repayable.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND FUNDING SELECTION

Q: How will LSDF proposals be evaluated and selected for funding?

A: All proposals for program and commercialization competitions undergo external expert review leading to placement of each proposal into one of three categories based on their recommendation for funding: Not Recommended, Recommended, and Highly Recommended. Final selection of awards is made by the LSDF Board of Trustees. Scientific and technical reviews are organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). For commercialization grants, commercial review panels are convened by LSDF.

A: All opportunity grant proposals undergo external expert review. Proposal review will typically be convened by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), or in certain cases, LSDF may accept a prior expert review in lieu of the AAAS review. The expert reviewers will recommend proposals to the LSDF Board of Trustees for funding. The board's final award selections will be based on these recommendations, the availability of funds, and the goals of the opportunity grants.

Q: Can LSDF funding decisions be appealed?

A: No.

Q: Can I respond to the expert reviewers' comments in my resubmission?

A: Yes; Principal Investigators are allowed up to five pages to respond to the expert reviewer critiques.