

**Life Sciences Discovery Fund  
Conflict of Interest Policy Regarding Donors**

The Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) makes research grants to improve health, contribute to economic development and foster competitiveness in Washington state. Grants are awarded on the basis of the scientific merit of proposals and the extent to which proposals are consistent with LSDF's legislative mandate. Integral to LSDF's success is that all grant-making activities be conducted without bias or the perception of bias. LSDF has adopted ethics and conflict of interest policies to ensure that Board of Trustee members, staff and external review contractors and reviewers disclose conflicts they may have resulting from personal and financial interests and recuse themselves from consideration of proposals when they have a disqualifying conflict.

LSDF has statutory authority to solicit and accept gifts from private and public entities and use those donations in accordance with its granting authority (RCW 43.350.030). Private and public entities which contribute to LSDF may, at some time, be applicants or co-applicants, or collaborators of applicants or co-applicants, for grants from LSDF. It is imperative that LSDF's decisions be guided solely by the merits of the grant applications and how well they meet the Fund's statutory guidelines and objectives. Bias, or the perception of bias, toward a donor in the proposal evaluation and award process must not occur.

**Policy Statement**  
**(approved by LSDF Board of Trustees on September 18, 2007)**

The following policy has been enacted to ensure that during any part of the application evaluation process, donor and affiliated organizations do not receive favorable treatment due to their donor status.

The LSDF Board of Trustees and staff, in their decision-making regarding the eligibility or merit of grant applications for funding, will not consider the fact that a donor, or entity affiliated with a donor, is an applicant, co-applicant or a collaborator in the proposed research. In executing this policy, LSDF may, at its discretion, call upon an outside observer to attend its grant evaluation meetings and to advise regarding resolution of any potential donor conflict issues that may arise.