

## Request for Bridge Grant Proposals for Award Year 2025-26 Limited Submission Opportunity

August 4, 2025

### Overview of Funding Opportunity

In response to recent abrupt shifts in federal funding for cancer research, including large-scale terminations of NIH research grant awards, the UC Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) has developed a one-time, expedited bridge grant funding opportunity for researchers whose federally funded cancer research grants have recently been canceled.

The CRCC is a systemwide, faculty-directed cancer research program that provides competitive intramural research awards for topics in any discipline that address any aspect of cancer, including its origins, detection, prevention and cure. Funding for this opportunity is provided through [33 bequests to UC](#) for cancer research, as well as donations made through the [California Cancer Research Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund](#).

The CRCC Bridge Grant supports any area of cancer research and is intended to mitigate some of the impact of canceled federal awards on trainees, projects and project teams. The impact of the canceled funding should be articulated in relation to the impact on the project, retention of students and postdocs, and the applicant's career trajectory. While it is impossible to close the gap left by federal funders, these Bridge Grants are for activities to address immediate needs following grant cancellations, including completing data collection, analyzing existing data, or thoughtful project closure. Applicants may propose completing an aim of the canceled grant or, for program projects, completing a smaller project or aim within the program project.

This Bridge Grant provides one-year funding to faculty on the 10 UC campuses. This is a limited submission opportunity; each UC campus may submit up to three proposals. The maximum award amount for the 2025-26 award year will be \$180,000. The award term is November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. General program information regarding the CRCC may be found on our website: <http://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/crcc/>.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) contains information regarding due dates, eligibility and exclusion criteria, budget guidelines, application components, and the review process and program contacts. Applications must be submitted in compliance with this RFP and instructions. *Proposals must be submitted through the PI's campus Office of Research (C&G or SPO). The PI is responsible for obtaining all required signatures and following campus proposal submission procedures.*

### Key Dates:

RFP Release:	Monday, August 4, 2025
Application Opens:	Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Proposal Due:	Thursday, September 4, 2025 (12 pm NOON Pacific Time)
Notification of Outcome:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 (expected)
Award Start Date:	November 1, 2025

## Overview of the Application and Selection Process

Eligible and interested Principal Investigators should contact the Limited Submission office at their campus and follow local guidance and procedures to be considered for this funding opportunity. Only those applications approved at the campus level and by the campus Sponsored Projects office are eligible for submission. Each campus may submit up to three proposals. Proposals must be submitted online and in accordance with the instructions, templates and guidelines provided in SmartSimple, and must conform to the requirements of this RFP. It is the applicant's responsibility to check the program website for any updates or clarifications prior to submitting the full proposal.

Proposals undergo review and ranking by the CRCC Steering Committee. Program funding is expected to be approximately \$2.5 million. Funding decisions are based on ranking and availability of funding and are final.

## Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

Please direct any questions to [UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu).

1. Eligible Principal Investigators (PIs): Proposals must be submitted by a faculty member at one of the 10 UC campuses who serves as the PI for the award. Awarded proposals will be administered by the campus department or unit identified in the proposal.
2. Eligible Proposals: Applications must propose research that was previously peer-reviewed and funded by a federal agency. The canceled grant must be a research grant, program project grant or other award mechanism that supports the applicant's research. Grants not primarily funding research (e.g., center, training, or infrastructure grants) are not eligible. Cancellation of the funded grant must have occurred after January 20, 2025. Grants that were canceled for reasons of scientific misconduct or ethical concerns are not eligible.
3. Exclusion Criteria: Applicants who have previously received Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) funding must be in compliance with all reporting requirements to be eligible to receive new CRCC funding.

## Budget Guidelines

1. Budget Request: The maximum award request is \$180,000. All budget line items must directly support the research and dissemination activities in the proposal and must be justified in relation to the scope of work. Support for graduate students, postdocs and other trainees is highly encouraged. Costs to supplement other awards are not allowed.
2. Duration of a Grant: Grants are awarded for a one-year period, November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. If the research program described is of longer duration, it is the applicant's responsibility to clearly designate what part of the project is to be undertaken during the award year with CRCC Bridge funds. The CRCC expects that the funds provided will be used for a full year of research and dissemination by the PI. The CRCC will not provide funds for a partial year of research. The funds may not be transferred to another researcher. The PI should not

accept the award if there is a likelihood of leaving the University of California within the award period.

3. Allowable Costs: CRCC Bridge funds may be used for any allowed costs that were budgeted in the canceled grant, e.g., to provide personnel salary, purchase supplies, services and equipment required specifically for the project and not otherwise available through department or university facilities. Travel expenses are allowed only for data collection directly related to the proposed research. Please note that it is not the intention of the CRCC Bridge Grant to fund the purchase or construction of general laboratory equipment. A budget itemization and justification is required in the full proposal.

4. Non-allowable Costs: The following costs may not be charged to a CRCC Bridge award: subcontracts, clinical trials; patient care costs; clerical assistance; office supplies, books, periodical subscriptions; patent execution costs; membership fees; registration fees; fundraising costs; meeting or conference travel. CRCC Bridge grants do not provide indirect cost recovery.

### **Proposal: Content, Review and Selection**

Proposals must adhere to all the requirements to be forwarded to the peer review stage.

Instructions for the application will be made available in early August 2025 in SmartSimple.

*Proposals must be submitted through the PI's campus Office of Research (C&G or SPO). The PI is responsible for obtaining all required signatures and following campus proposal submission procedures.*

### Scope and Content of the Proposal

The proposal must include the following components and use the templates provided (maximum page length indicated for each section must be strictly adhered to):

1. Abstract (2400 characters/~350 words): The abstract should be appropriate for a general scholarly audience. Avoid disciplinary jargon or technical language specific to a single field. The abstract is not counted in the 3-page limit.

2. Proposed Research Activities (3-page limit, not including literature cited): Describe the scope of the proposed research and its significance, including: a concise statement of the problem to be solved (e.g., state the hypothesis to be tested); sufficient background to orient those not familiar with the problem; preliminary data if available or other relevant data from the applicant's work or that of others; and sufficient detail describing the applicant's proposed research and specific aims. Include a brief description of the expected publications or other plans to disseminate the results of the research.

The scope of the proposal should be suitably limited such that completion in one year is a reasonable expectation. The narrative must emphasize what the PI expects to accomplish with the CRCC funds, including expected outcomes. Sufficient detail must be given in this section to make it possible for Committee members to clearly distinguish this project from others in the applicant's research portfolio with respect to issues of potential overlap.

Applicants may include up to 2 additional pages (not included in the 3-page limit) for literature cited.

3. Impact of Canceled Grant (1 page): Describe the impact of the canceled grant on the ability to continue the research project at a future time (e.g., loss of irretrievable data or animal models), students and postdocs working on the project, and the applicant's research career. Include a timeline of the canceled project, including how long the project has been on hold.
4. Itemized Budget and Justification: Provide an itemized budget for the proposed activities in accordance with the allowable costs and budget guidelines. A budget justification that describes significant project expenditures is also required. The budget should include direct costs only (*no indirect costs are allowed*).
5. Additional Attachments (*all required unless otherwise noted*):
  - a) PI biosketch: Not to exceed five (5) pages. Please use the NIH template.
  - b) Other Support: Please use the NIH template. Include pending grants and grants to be submitted to continue funding for the canceled grant.
  - c) Notice of grant cancellation

#### Proposal Review

The CRCC Steering Committee will evaluate proposals based on alignment with program priorities, probability of success within the 1-year duration of the award and proposed budget, and the impact of the grant cancellation. Steering Committee members are faculty drawn from the University of California system with a wide variety of expertise.

#### Final Selection

The final determination of awards will be made based on a rank-ordered list of proposals approved by the CRCC Steering Committee and available funding. Funding decisions are not subject to appeal.

Upon nomination for funding, applicants will be required to meet pre-funding criteria. Abstracts of funded proposals will be made publicly available. Funded proposals must comply with all relevant UC, state, and federal research policies and PIs are required to submit a progress report at the end of the fund year, and final report of research outcomes in four years. Publications and other dissemination resulting from research supported by the CRCC must acknowledge CRCC support in the publication.

#### **Research Program Oversight**

CRCC Bridge Grants are administered by UC Research Initiatives, Research Grants Program Office, in the UC Office of the President. Funded proposals will be assigned to a program officer who will serve as the primary program contact.

**Additional Information**

*For questions on program scope and priorities, please contact: [UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu).*

*Administrative questions regarding the application process and technical support questions may be directed to: [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu).*

**Attachments****Appendix 1:** Project Personnel Roles

Provides descriptions of allowable project personnel roles and biosketch requirements

**Appendix 2:** Procedure for Administration of CRCC Bridge Grants

Provides information on post-award administration of funds

**Appendix 3:** Other RGPO Policies and Pre-Award Requirements

Provides compliance guidelines that will be required of all proposals nominated for funding

***Updated Program Announcements, FAQs and RFP clarifications (if any), and applicant webinar information will be posted on the CRCC page of the [UCRI website](http://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/crcc/index.html). To ensure proposal submissions meet all program requirements, PIs and grant administrators are strongly encouraged to check the website for any program updates prior to submission:***

**<http://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/crcc/index.html>**

## Appendix 1:

### Project Personnel Roles – Definitions, Guidelines, and Biosketch Requirements

The Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) Bridge Grants allow the following roles.

<b>Role on Project</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Biosketch Required?</b>
Applicant Principal Investigator	The Applicant Principal Investigator is the lead investigator on a grant. They direct the research project, serve as the project's main research and administrative contact, and are responsible for providing progress, fiscal, and other reports to RGPO. There will always be only one PI from an institution. Any additional investigators from a given institution are called Co-Investigators.	Yes
Co-Investigator	Co-Investigators are additional investigators from the same institution(s) as the Principal Investigator. Only one Principal Investigator is permitted per application.	Yes
Consultant	Consultants are project participants who provide a well-defined and restricted service, and are not located at the PI's (or Co-PI's) institution.	No
Research Support Staff	Individuals providing technical services in support of the research project, such as Project Directors, Research Coordinators and Research Assistants. These individuals are directly involved in the research project. Research staff generally will appear on the project budget. Administrative, secretarial, or other general departmental or center support staff are not considered to be directly involved in the research and should not be listed as research support staff.	No
Trainee	Trainee may be a graduate student, post-doc, or other student participating in the research, often but not necessarily as part of a degree program or formal fellowship.	No

A Role on Project must be selected for each individual listed in the Project Personnel table in SmartSimple, which can be found on the Project Contacts tab of the application. Other roles that you may see as options in SmartSimple may not be used for CRCC awards.

Note that all required biosketches are uploaded directly to the Project Personnel table.

## **Appendix 2:**

### **Procedure for Administration of CRCC Bridge Grants**

- I. Restrictions on the use of Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) Bridge Grant:
  - A. The following expenses may not be charged to a CRCC grant account:
    - 1) Subcontracts
    - 2) Clinical trials
    - 3) Patient care costs
    - 4) Clerical assistance
    - 5) Office, duplication and communication expenses
    - 6) Periodical subscriptions
    - 7) Preparation and publication of textbooks
    - 8) Books not needed for completion of the research
    - 9) Patent execution costs
    - 10) Travel expenses (except for data collection)
    - 11) Conference travel expenses
    - 12) Registration or membership fees
    - 13) Indirect cost recovery
  - B. Changes in personnel or other line-item expenses that exceed both 25% and \$5,000 of any budget line item require prior approval from CRCC program staff and submission of a formal budget change request. No funds may be transferred into the equipment budget line item unless prior approval from the CRCC is obtained.
- II. Questions regarding the use of CRCC grant funds for a particular expense should be directed to [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu).
- III. No additions will be made to the award amount for unanticipated increases in salaries or benefits; budget modification requests must be made in accordance with I.B. above.
- IV. The CRCC expects that the funds provided will be used for a full year of research by the Principal Investigator. The CRCC will not provide funds for a partial year of research. The funds may not be transferred to another researcher. The Principal Investigator should not accept the award if there is a likelihood of leaving the University within the award period.
- V. Equipment authorized by CRCC must be purchased prior to the last 120 days of the term of the grant. All equipment or inventorial items of a permanent nature which are purchased under a research grant shall become the property of the University department or appropriate administrative unit as soon as the grantee's need for them has passed.
- VI. The CRCC will not consider requests for funds to meet overdrafts incurred on Cancer Research funds.
- VII. All scientific publications and other products from this research must acknowledge the

funding support from University of California, with specific reference to the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee and the referenced grant ID number. Publications based on funding received from this award are subject to the University's Open Access Policy. To facilitate compliance with this requirement, publications may be uploaded to the CRCC repository on eScholarship: [https://escholarship.org/uc/ucrc\\_crcc](https://escholarship.org/uc/ucrc_crcc).

- VIII. Awards are contingent upon canceled funding of the previously peer-reviewed, funded grant. If the original grant is reinstated, the awardee must notify the program within 30 days of reinstatement and may be asked to submit a modified scope of work and budget change modification to avoid funding overlap.
- IX. Awards are made for one year only unless specifically noted in the final award letter. No funds may be expended beyond the approved end date. CRCC grant funds remaining at the end of the approved award period must be returned to the UC Cancer Research Coordinating Committee account from which it was transferred by the local campus Accounting Office at the end of the award (within 120 days of the end of the approved performance period). Return of funds instructions will be provided at award closure.
- X. The Principal Investigator is responsible for the timely submission of progress and fiscal reports, and any other reports as requested.

The progress and financial reports must be submitted 90 days after the expiration of the award to UC Research Initiatives in accordance with instructions provided by [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu).

Questions about any of these provisions should be addressed to [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu).

Last updated: July 30, 2025



### **Appendix 3:**

#### **Other RGPO Policies and Pre-Award Requirements**

*The following relevant policies and requirements for awards made by the UCOP Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) apply to all proposals nominated for funding. These requirements are outlined in the formal “pre-funding” notification that will be sent to applicants nominated for funding by the peer review and ranking process, and this appendix may not include all pre-award requirements.*

#### **Condition of Award for UC Faculty**

In accordance with University of California policy, investigators applying from a UC campus must submit proposals through their campus contracts and grants office (“Policy on the Requirement to Submit Proposals and to Receive Awards for Grants and Contracts through the University,” Office of the President, December 15, 1994”). Investigators from other UC locations or from the national laboratories should apply through their institution’s contracts and grants office. Investigators with a joint or multi-location appointment should consult the eligibility guidelines in the RFP to determine through which location they are eligible to apply.

#### **Human Material and Animal Subjects**

Approvals for use of human subjects and material, animals, and toxic substances are not required at the time of application. When such approvals are applicable to the research, applicants must apply to the appropriate board or committee as soon as possible in order to expedite the start of the research, and you must do so within 30 days of notification that an award has been offered. Applicants may formally request an extension of this deadline if justified by specific circumstances of the research. All reasonable efforts must be made to obtain appropriate approvals in a timely fashion. Projects that do not obtain the necessary approvals in a timely manner may have their funding reduced or withdrawn.

For multicampus collaborations with research requiring IRB approval, the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) governing reliance across the UC campuses allows an IRB at any of the UC campuses to rely upon the review and approval (or determination of exemption) of human subject research by an IRB at another UC campus. Each campus IRB can assist with any questions related to taking the lead or relying on other UC campus IRB reviews. Please note that each study location is still responsible for obtaining other applicable ancillary approvals such as Conflict of Interest, Radiation Safety, etc. Contact your Campus IRB Reliance Coordinator for more information about the UC IRB reliance process.

#### **Publications Acknowledgement and Open Access**

All scientific publications and other products from a RGPO-funded research project must acknowledge the funding support from UC Office of the President, with reference to the specific funding program (e.g., CRCC, MRPI, LFRP) and the assigned grant ID number.

RGPO is committed to disseminating research as widely as possible to promote the public benefit. All publications based on funding received from RGPO are subject to the [University’s Open Access Policy](#). To assist the RGPO in disseminating and archiving the articles, the grantee

institution and all researchers on the grant will deposit an electronic copy of all publications in the [UC Publication Management System](#), UC's open access repository promptly after publication. Notwithstanding the above, this policy does not in any way prescribe or limit the venue of publication.

### **Deposition of Equipment and Supplies at the End of the Grant**

Equipment purchases made by projects funded by the research program must be made by UC campuses and are the property of the UC Regents. Special permission must be sought in advance to purchase equipment for a non-UC campus or entity. In the rare event it is approved, the disposition of the equipment must follow RGPO rules.

### **Appeals of Funding Decisions**

RGPO strives to resolve issues raised throughout the grantmaking lifecycle from funding decisions to project closeout. Before submitting an appeal or grievance, applicants are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the appropriate program officer or program director.

The only basis on which an appeal regarding the funding decision of a grant application will be considered is in the case of an alleged error in, or violation of the peer review procedures and/or process. Appeals based on substantive disagreement with the peer review evaluation will not be considered. In such cases, applicants may resubmit applications in a subsequent grant cycle.

Applicant appeals must be made to the program within 30 days of the funding notification. If discussions with the program do not satisfactorily resolve an applicant's issue, either the applicant or the program may contact the RGPO Executive Director for resolution. If resolution is not achieved, or if the applicant believes that a violation has occurred that has not been adequately addressed through these efforts, a formal appeal may be filed with the Vice President of Research and Innovation.

### **Other Requirements**

*Upon request*, awardees must supply the following information or documents:

1. Supply approved indirect (F&A) rate agreements as of the grant's start date and any derived budget calculations.
2. Supply any missing application forms or materials, including detailed budgets and justifications for any subcontract(s).
3. IRB or IACUC applications or approvals pertaining to the award.
4. Resolution of any scientific overlap issues with other grants or pending applications.
5. Resolution of any Review Committee and Program recommendations, including specific aims, award budget, or duration.
6. Modify the title and lay abstract, if requested.

*All grant recipients must abide by other applicable pre- and post-award requirements pertaining to Cost Share, Indirect Cost Rates, Monitoring & Payment of Subcontracts, Conflict of Interest, Disclosure of Violations, Return of Interest, Equipment and Residual Supplies, Records Retention, Open Access, and Reporting.*