

Great Lakes ReNEW Use-Inspired R&D and Translation Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My institution isn't on the Eligible Institutions List. Can I still apply?

A: Yes! All proposals require two co-leads to encourage cross-institutional collaboration. To apply, at least one of the two co-leads must be on the Eligible Institutions List. See the "Eligibility Information" section on page 3 of the [Great Lakes ReNEW Use-Inspired R&D and Translation Grant Program RFP](#) for full details.

Q: I'd like to partner with another organization. How can I access a list of which individuals I can reach out to?

A: For teaming needs [please fill out the following form](#). Your responses will be posted publicly, along with others' [responses in this spreadsheet](#). This will facilitate your ability to contact those with compatible teaming needs using the provided information.

Q: Are organizations based outside of the United States eligible to apply to this funding opportunity?

A: No, at this time only organizations based in the United States are eligible to apply.

Q: Are non-startup, for-profit organizations eligible as Co-Leads?

A: Yes, for-profit organizations may submit a proposal as a co-lead, or as a partner on the proposal. Please note that while non-startup, for-profit organizations may co-lead or partner on proposals, they are not eligible for direct funding. It is advantageous to outline in your proposal how you will leverage the industry partnership to maximize resources (e.g., in-kind staff time, access to facilities for piloting, etc.). Proposals which incorporate industry partnerships and leverage their additional support will be favorably considered.

All eligibility requirements for proposal submission still apply. See the "Eligibility Information" section on page 3 of the [Great Lakes ReNEW Use-Inspired R&D and Translation Grant Program RFP](#) for full details. For the purposes of this competitive funding opportunity, startups are defined as those for-profit organizations eligible for federal SBIR grants and prior to Series B funding.



Q: For Co-Leads to be considered within the Great Lakes ReNEW region of service, would the organization HQ need to be in the region, or the organization have any office in the region, or is it the individual researcher who needs to be in the region?

A: Co-leads not on the Eligible Institutions List, but who are partnered with an eligible co-lead, do not need to be headquartered in the Great Lakes ReNEW Region of Service. For those not located in the region of service, consider and make a case for how your research/technology/business will still have a regional impact on the Great Lakes. See the "Eligibility Information" section on page 3 of the [Great Lakes ReNEW Use-Inspired R&D and Translation Grant Program RFP](#) for full details.

Q: How would this funding impact applicants with existing IP? Does having existing IP preclude an applicant from this opportunity?

A: Intellectual Property in existence prior to, or first produced outside of, work funded under this RFP is considered "Background IP". This RFP does not purport to grant Current either directly or by implication, estoppel, or otherwise, any license to any Background IP of any Partner. Each Partner will have the right to retain title to its ownership interest of any Intellectual Property invented or created by it and its participating researchers and developers as a result of any work funded under this RFP ("New IP"). If New IP is invented as a result of work funded under this RFP, Current simply requests that the inventing Partner agree to negotiate in good faith to grant and assign Current a commercial-use license for rights to use the New IP, subject to commercial terms and royalties.

Q: As a startup, we would not want to encumber any of our technology by assigning rights to other parties. Is this area negotiable in the RFP?

A: If New IP emerges during the term of the Agreement, Current would request the right to negotiate in good faith for a commercial-use license, subject to commercial terms and royalties. Please note that there are other encumbrances we highly encourage you to discuss with counsel: (1) co-inventions and (2) Bayh-Dole Act implications that arise from the receipt of federal assistance awards.

Q: I'm cautious to share my innovative ideas in a proposal. Could you share more details about reviewer confidentiality?

A: Prior to the distribution of any proposals, all reviewers must complete an NDA and confidentiality agreement. No information will be shared with anyone who is not bound by these agreements. Additionally, confidentiality guidelines adapted from NSF panels will be shared with all reviewers.



Q: Is my proposal idea in scope for this RFP?

A: While we are not able to assess individual proposal concepts ahead of time, please see the “Areas of Interest Specific to this Funding Call” section on page 8 of the [Great Lakes ReNEW Use-Inspired R&D and Translation Grant Program RFP](#) for full details on this call’s priority focus areas.

Q: Is it possible for non-startup, for-profit organizations to join the CRC or CIC at this time?

A: Yes. If you are a university, utility, or national lab interested in joining the Current Research Consortium, please reach out to Melissa Pierce (mpierce@currentwater.org) and if you are a for-profit organization interested in joining the Current Industry Consortium please reach out to Jonathan Goodell (jgoodell@currentwater.org).

Q: What type of personnel is needed for "the staff at your institution that oversee existing workforce programming or that will commit to working with ReNEW staff"? Is this an administrative staff or could a graduate student involved serve this role?

A: We are asking respondents to provide the name and contact information for a person on site at your university. We envision that this would be a staff member in your institution’s office or department of career development, community service, or community engagement, or in the school of education or social work. This does not need to be the person responsible for implementation, simply an identified staff member to talk to if awarded.

Q: Do we need to provide a budget at the concept paper stage?

A: There is no requirement to provide a detailed budget in your concept paper. When you submit your proposal through the Amplifund portal, however, it will ask you for a total dollar amount to be requested. It does not need to be separated according to institution, simply a total.