

**Who is eligible?**

All U-M Ann Arbor faculty are eligible to participate. The leadership of any proposal must include tenure stream faculty, and the strength of any proposal will be judged, in part, by the demonstrated scientific leadership of the principal investigator(s). Multi-PIs and/or Co-PIs are allowed.

**How do you define Biosciences, and what scientific problems are eligible for funding?**

We are taking biosciences to refer to any of the life sciences wherein all the applicable sciences (chemistry, math, physics, etc.) are applied. Thus, Biosciences Initiatives should seek to solve biological problems utilizing traditional life science methods, along with any other convergent disciplines. Further, the Initiative spans the entire breadth of bioscience, as stated in the goal “to make U-M a global leader in high-impact biosciences research, from fundamental discovery through practical application, for the benefit of society.” Thus, as examples, clinical research, environmental research, and health policy research would certainly be included.

**Who should serve as key personnel, as program leadership?**

Key personnel should be U-M faculty who will make essential contributions to the success of a proposal. Proposals should identify one or more principal investigators capable of leading the proposal. If there are multiple PIs, the governance plan must include a multi-PI leadership plan.

**How many departments and schools are needed for a successful proposal?**

The RFA guidelines state that the participation of a minimum of 3 departments is needed for Scientific Research Initiatives and multiple departments for Science Synergy Initiatives. Thus, it is possible to develop a proposal within a single school. However, please keep in mind that the RFA states that “Proposals should take advantage of the breadth of bioscience and convergent disciplines at U-M.” Thus, proposals that successfully develop a multidisciplinary approach to complex biological problems, and thus operate across multiple schools and colleges, may be viewed more favorably.

**What can Biosciences Initiative funds be used for?**

Bioscience initiative budgets for **Research Initiatives** and **Science Synergy Initiatives** should be built around the recruitment of new faculty, and may cover up to 100% of their start-up costs. The initial and ongoing costs of the starting salary and benefits for these faculty should not be included in initiative budgets, as this will be paid for by the Provost’s office; pay increases resulting from raises and advance in rank will be the responsibility of the unit(s) to which the faculty member belongs. As described in the RFA, reasonable administrative costs and core resources essential to the scientific success of the program may be included in the budget. While ongoing salary support will be sustained by the Provost’s office, the administrative and core resource expenses will terminate at the

end of the Biosciences Initiative, and thus in full applications, a plan must be proposed for the sustainability of these components.

**Can effort of existing U-M personnel be included in the budget?**

- FTE costs for research or administrative efforts of existing faculty should ideally be provided by the participating units
- Requests for FTE costs for existing faculty should be limited and well-justified; for example faculty receiving 9 month salary support may not receive Biosciences support to replace this component of their salary
- Requests for FTE costs for existing faculty should be temporary (1-3 years), and plans for replacing these costs with a sustainable source of funds, such as recharge revenue and/or grant funding, should be provided

**What about sustainability and other requirements for the full proposals?**

While a sustainability plan is not required at the Letter of Intent stage, keep in mind that the Biosciences Initiative is a one time, five year funding opportunity. As you design your initiative Letter of Intent, please keep in mind all the requirements ultimately necessary in the full application, such as plans to make your initiative sustainable following the completion of Biosciences Initiative funding.

**How should LOI and grant documents be formatted and submitted?**

Please use the provided form pages for LOI and full application submissions, and use 11 point Arial font, and page margins greater than or equal to ½ inch. Assembled into a single pdf file, should be loaded up directly to the link labeled Biosciences Submission Site button located on the Funding Opportunities page on the Biosciences website <http://biosciences.umich.edu/funding-opportunities/>

**How do I submit my Scientific Proposal for FY19?**

Navigate to the Biosciences website > Funding Opportunities page:

<http://biosciences.umich.edu/funding-opportunities/>

Click on Biosciences Submission Site button. This will take you to the Biosciences Applications and Competitions for Grant Funding Application Portal.

**Further questions?**

Email or call the Biosciences Initiative ([biosciences@umich.edu](mailto:biosciences@umich.edu), 734.764.3011)

Contact any member of the Bioscience Initiative Coordinating Committee

<http://biosciences.umich.edu/committee/>