**Who is eligible to apply to the Biosciences Initiative RFA?**
All U-M Ann Arbor faculty are eligible to participate. The leadership of any proposal must include tenure stream faculty. 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? What scientific problems are eligible for funding?**
Biosciences refers 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.

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.” Examples such as clinical research, environmental research and health policy research would 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 Request for Applications (RFA) guidelines state that the participation of a minimum of three departments is needed for Scientific Research Initiatives. It is possible to develop a proposal within a single school.

However, please keep in mind: the RFA states, “proposals should take advantage of the breadth of bioscience and convergent disciplines at U-M.” Proposals that successfully develop a multidisciplinary approach to complex biological problems and consequently operate across multiple schools and colleges may be viewed more favorably.

**What can Biosciences Initiative funds be used for?**
Bioscience Initiative budgets for Scientific Research 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 will be paid for by the Provost’s office. Pay increases resulting from raises and advance in rank will be the responsibility of the faculty member’s home unit.

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 faculty salary support will be sustained by the Provost’s office, the administrative and core resource expenses will terminate at the
Can effort of existing U-M personnel be included in the budget?
Full Time Employee (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 nine-month salary support may not receive Biosciences Initiative support to replace this component of their salary.

Requests for FTE costs for existing faculty should be temporary (1-3 years) and reasonable. 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 (LOI) stage, the Biosciences Initiative is a one-time, five-year funding opportunity. When designing your LOI, 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 LOIs and grant documents be formatted and submitted?
Please use the provided form pages for LOIs and full application submissions. Use 11-point Arial font and page margins greater than or equal to one-half inch. Assembled into a single PDF file, all documents should be uploaded directly to the Biosciences Initiative Submission Site.

Find the submission site by accessing the submission button on the Biosciences Initiative’s Funding Opportunities webpage: biosciences.umich.edu/funding-opportunities.

How do I submit my Scientific Proposal for FY20?
Invitations for full proposals will be sent by May 31, 2019. Proposals are due Aug. 30, 2019. To submit your scientific proposal for FY20, you can:
1. Navigate to the Biosciences Initiative Funding Opportunities webpage: biosciences.umich.edu/funding-opportunities.
2. Select the Biosciences Initiative Submission Site button. This button will take you to the Biosciences Initiative Applications and Competitions for Grant Funding Application Portal.

When are the new faculty hires finalized?
Initiatives must propose detailed recruiting plans outside the traditional departmental structures. The Dean supporting each faculty appointment, the Biosciences Initiative Coordinating Committee and the Provost’s Office must all coordinate and provide final approval for each new faculty recruit.
**Should I include a Dean sign-off in the proposal? Is a Department Chair letter sufficient?**
Include approval from both Chairs and Deans in your proposal. The Key Personnel, Administration, and Governance section of the RFA states that each initiative is expected to have a multi-departmental/multi-unit governance group.

**Should we identify the governance group members in our proposal?**
You should identify the multi-departmental/multi-unit governance group members in your proposal.

**If approved, will the Biosciences Initiative budget cover the full startup costs? Who provides base salary and benefits for new hires?**
The Scientific Research Initiative proposals can request full start up packages, although participation of the recruiting units is welcomed. Base salary and benefits will be supported through the office of the Provost. Anticipated merit and step raises are the responsibility of the recruit’s home unit(s).

When preparing your proposal, be sure to show both the budgeted amount requested of the Biosciences Initiative and the estimated salary and benefits provided by the Provost’s Office.

**I have additional questions that weren’t answered in these FAQs. What should I do?**
Attend either or both of the Biosciences Initiative Workshops for discussion and questions regarding the RFA and application process. The Biosciences Initiative Coordinating Committee will be participating. All are welcome, and refreshments are provided.
- **March 6: Workshop to answer questions and discuss details of RFA – Central Campus**
- **March 12: Workshop to answer questions and discuss details of RFA – North Campus**

Contact the Biosciences Initiative:
- By email at biosciences@umich.edu
- By phone at 734.764.3011

Contact any member of the Bioscience Initiative Coordinating Committee. Members are listed at: biosciences.umich.edu/committee.