



## ***Background***

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### **What is the Rhode Island Research Alliance (RIRA)?**

The RI Research Alliance is a program that was created by the Science and Technology Advisory Council to act as a platform for promoting collaboration, maximizing state and federal investment in research and enhancing the state's R&D-related economic development opportunities. By promoting collaboration among the state's research universities, research hospitals, corporations and government agencies, the Alliance supports current research activities, strengthens RI's ability to attract federal and corporate research investment for new projects and spurs economic development and job growth.

### **What is the purpose of RIRA's Collaborative Research Grants?**

The Collaborative Research Grant program provides funding to projects that lead to major new research opportunities that can be supported by federal agencies, corporations and/or foundations or contribute to current or future economic development of the state through technology development and commercialization. Projects with strong translational components and those that focus on infrastructure development that advance the competitiveness of RI researchers to secure additional funding awards are encouraged. All science and engineering areas are eligible. Research projects that support the three core sectors identified by the [RI Science and Technology Strategic Plan](#) – marine sciences and technology, life sciences and energy and the environment – including those collaborations that fall at the convergences of these sectors, are particularly desirable.

## ***General Grant Information***

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### **Who is eligible to apply for a Collaborative Research Grant?**

Any Rhode Island research institution, including academic, medical or business and government organizations are eligible to apply. Applications must be collaborative with at least two distinct organizations, one of which shall be a Rhode Island institute of higher education which will serve as the fiduciary agent for the grant.

### **How much funding is available?**

Maximum award per grant is \$200,000.

**What activities can be funded by the proposal?**

The Collaborative Grant Award Program's funds can be used to support personnel – professional and student; equipment; supplies and materials; and miscellaneous expenses such as travel costs, conference registrations and publications. These grants fund only direct costs associated with the proposed activity. No indirect costs are allowed under this grant.

**Are proposals to purchase shared equipment welcomed?**

Yes. Proposals must show how the purchase of a shared piece of equipment will benefit the statewide research network, leading to increased collaboration, innovation and/or commercialization throughout the state.

**Do I have to submit a pre-proposal?**

Yes. Pre-proposals are required for this grant award and must be submitted via email to [RIResearchAlliance@riedc.com](mailto:RIResearchAlliance@riedc.com) by September 30, 2010 (due by 4:30 p.m. EST). The subject line should read: Last name, First name, Pre-proposal (i.e. Coogan, Kristen, Pre-Proposal).

**How will I be notified if my team has been selected to submit a final proposal?**

All PIs or team leaders will be notified by email regarding the success or declination of their pre-proposal. All investigators who submit an eligible pre-proposal are invited to submit a full proposal.

**How do I submit my final proposal?**

Final proposals should be submitted through the online submission tool found on the [STAC website](#). Final proposal submission deadline is October 28, 2010 (due by 4:30 p.m. EST). A hard copy of the full proposal with original signatures is also required and should be submitted no later than November 4, 2010. Hard copies should be mailed to:

Ms. Christine M.B. Smith  
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101  
Providence, RI 02908

**How will I be notified if my team has been selected?**

All PIs or team leaders will be notified by email of the success or declination of their grant proposal.

**When will the awards be announced?**

Awards will be announced in January 2011.

**How long is the grant performance period?**

Funding is for one calendar year, commencing in January 2011.

**How are the awardees selected?**

Each proposal undergoes two external peer reviews and a selection committee review. Proposals are evaluated using two National Science Board approved merit criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed research activity.

For intellectual merit, the proposal will be evaluated based on how important the activity is to advancing knowledge or understanding within its own field or across different fields; how well qualified the team is to conduct the activity; to what extent the activity suggests and explores creative and original concepts and how well organized the activity is.

For broader impacts, the proposal evaluation will consider how well the proposed activity advances discovery and understanding; whether the project is catalytic in nature and has the potential to lead to major new research opportunities that can be supported by federal agencies, corporations and/or foundations; whether the proposed activity has significant potential for the attraction of follow-on investment and/or technology development/commercialization; whether the proposed activity clearly shows how the combined efforts of the institutions can lead to results that could not be achieved by either alone; and whether the proposed activity advances state-wide research capacity.

Additional criteria that will be considered include: how well the proposed activity advances the objectives of the Research Alliance including whether the proposed activity enhances efforts to receive additional awards and advances the competitiveness of scientists in RI; how broadly the outcome of the proposal will impact the greater public; how the activity complements other state-wide activities; and how the activity aligns with the core strengths identified by the [RI Science and Technology Strategic Plan](#).

**Who are the peer reviewers? Can I choose my own reviewer?**

The peer reviewers are a group of highly qualified researchers from that have array of varied expertise. Proposals are matched with reviewers whose expertise lies in a similar research field. Proposers may include a list of reviewers who they believe are well qualified to review their proposal. If deemed eligible by the RIRA administration the suggested reviewer will be solicited to review the proposal.

**What qualities determine if a suggested reviewer is eligible?**

Suggested reviewers must be terminal degree individuals that possess no personal or professional relationship to the proposer. Reviewers must certify that neither they nor anyone in their immediate family would receive financial gain should the proposal in question be funded.

**Who sits on the selection committee?**

The selection committee is chosen annually by the STAC co-chairs based on the member's expertise and absence of any conflict of interest. The committee generally consists of business and academic leaders.

**Can a research team resubmit a previously rejected application?**

Research teams can submit a revised proposal that has previously been rejected. Peer reviews will be returned to the PIs of each proposal so the team can better assess the rejected proposal's strengths and weaknesses.

**If awarded, can teams request a no-cost extension if needed?**

Yes, research teams can request a no-cost extension for up to 6 months at the culmination of the grant year. The team must submit this request, along with an explanation as to why the extension is necessary, to the Council's Executive Director, Christine Smith.

**What happens to any residual funds at the end of the grant year?**

The funds must be returned to the grantor.

**What kind of reporting criteria are teams required to submit?**

Teams are required to submit two progress reports as well as one final report. Reports should clearly state the project's original objectives, what objectives have been completed thus far, and the next steps the team plans to accomplish. Teams should also document any other successes such as: presentations, publications, student training, patents filed, licenses acquired, companies created, and/or any monies secured from outside funders.

Progress reports will be due on May 1, 2011 and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, with a final report due no later than January 31, 2012.

**Can a research team/PI be awarded more than once?**

Research teams or PIs may apply to the Collaborative Grant Award program again if they are seeking to fund another research objective. Project continuation proposals will not be accepted.

**Can I be a member of more than one proposal in any grant cycle?**

Yes, individuals can serve as PI or co-PI on multiple proposals.

**Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

Please contact [Christine Smith](#) at (401) 278-9197 or [Kristen Coogan](#) at (401) 278-9114 or for more information about this and other STAC/RIRA programs.

## ***RIRA Program Information***

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### **How many awards have been granted over the years?**

Throughout the past four years the RIRA has awarded \$5 million to thirty teams of researchers.

### **How many institutions have been represented?**

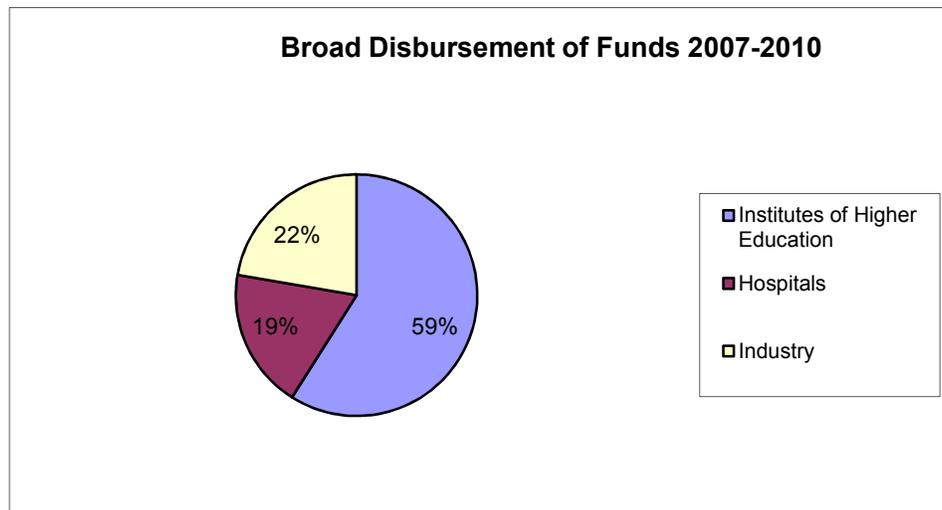
Over the past four years twenty-seven research institutions have been represented.

### **How much out-of-state follow on funding has been brought into the state as a result of this program?**

Over the past four years the awardees together have brought in approximately \$8.4 million from outside funding sources.

### **What is the broad agency disbursement of funds for this RIRA program?**

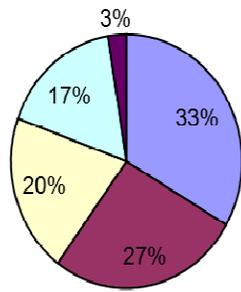
The majority of RIRA funding through the Collaborative Grant Awards Program is awarded to institutes of higher education which have received just under sixty percent. The remainder of funds has been awarded to private companies/industry members (22%) and hospitals (19%).



### **What has the Program's award funding supported?**

The Collaborative Grant Award Program's funds have supported personnel – professional and student (60%); equipment; supplies and materials (37%); and miscellaneous expenses such as travel costs, conference registrations and publications (3%). These grants cover only direct costs. No indirect costs are allowed.

### Disbursement of Funds 2007-2010



- Professional Personnel
- Student Personnel
- Equipment
- Supplies/Materials
- Travel/Mtgs/Publications