



Program Name: Clinical Research Award with LOI (Fall 2021 cycle)

Brief Program Overview/Description: Clinical Research Awards are offered to provide support for investigator-initiated clinical research projects that have the potential to make an important contribution to the CF Foundation’s mission. Research projects may address diagnosis, treatment, management of disease or symptom, or the pathophysiology of CF using clinical (observational/interventional), translational or epidemiologic study approaches. Applicants must demonstrate access to sufficient numbers of CF patients and appropriate controls.

Funding Amount: Applicants may request funding of up to \$150,000 per year, plus an additional twelve (12) percent indirect costs for single-center clinical studies; and up to \$350,000 per year, plus twelve (12) percent indirect costs for multi-center clinical studies.

Eligibility:

- United States residents and applicants from outside the United States are welcome to apply.
- Applicants must be independent investigators. An independent investigator is an individual who is out of fellowship training and whose institution allows them to submit applications for research funding as a Principle Investigator.
- Candidates who are clinical fellows should apply to the CFF Clinical Fellowship program for the appropriate year.
- Candidates who are postdoctoral fellows should apply to the CFF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program.
- *Additional eligibility requirements can be found in Section IV below.*

Key Dates:

	Fall 2021 Cycle
Published	January 25, 2021
Pre-Registration Deadline	March 5, 2021
LOI Submission Deadline	March 19, 2021
LOI Applicant Notified	June 2021
Full Application Deadline	August 18, 2021
Committee Review Date	October 2021
Notification to Applicants	November 2021
Earliest Project Start Date	January 1, 2022

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I. About the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

The mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with CF the opportunity to lead long, fulfilling lives by funding research and drug development, partnering with the CF community, and advancing high-quality, specialized care.

To achieve this mission, various types of grants and awards are offered to support meritorious research in CF.

CF Foundation Resources

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supports the development of a number of helpful tools and resources to assist the research community in accelerating the progress toward new scientific knowledge of and new therapies for cystic fibrosis. For more information on Tools and Resources for the CFF research community, please visit: <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/>

CFF Patient Registry Data

The CF Foundation Patient Registry collects information on the health status of people with cystic fibrosis who receive care in CF Foundation-accredited care centers and agree to participate in the Registry. This information is used to create CF care guidelines, assist care teams providing care to individuals with CF, and guide quality improvement initiatives at care centers. Researchers also use the Patient Registry to study CF treatments and outcomes and to design CF clinical trials.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry is an invaluable tool for researchers who are interested in conducting studies about people with CF in the United States. About 50,000 individuals have been followed in the Registry, and many have been included for over 20 years. In addition, we recently linked the CF Foundation Patient Registry with the Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS) database. Investigators at PHIS sites can request to use these linked data. Instructions on how to request CFFPR data for your research project is included in the application instructions below.

CFF Biorepository

Cystic fibrosis biological samples are available to qualified researchers to help develop promising new studies that will support CF research and aid in drug development and drug discovery. Biorepository samples come in many different forms: blood, urine, stool, tissue, and other material. These samples are stored under appropriate conditions that ensure they are preserved for future analysis.

Since 2006, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has collected and stored samples from a variety of clinical trials. The CF Foundation has developed a database that combines information from these samples with data from CF clinical trials and the CF Foundation Patient Registry to create a unique and specific sample profile. Instructions on how to request CFF Biorepository samples for your research project is included in the application instructions below.

Community Voice

The CF Foundation is committed to ensuring that the CF community's voice is heard in all of our activities. In December 2014, the CF Foundation created Community Voice, formerly known as the CF Adult and Family Advisors group, to serve as a consultative body and partner to the Foundation on various activities. Research Voice, a sub-committee within Community Voice, consists of people with CF and their family members who undergo special training on the basics of clinical research to provide insight and feedback to the research community.

Opportunities to partner with the community occur throughout the stages of a research project. Recently, several CFF funded investigator-initiated clinical research projects have utilized community engagement through Community Voice to successfully execute and complete their projects. The CF Foundation strongly encourages you to engage people with cystic fibrosis throughout the stages of clinical research. Based on your goals and objectives, the CF Foundation will work with you to determine which mechanisms are most appropriate. To learn more about how community insights can help you optimize your research project, email CommunityVoice@cff.org.

National Resource Centers

Specialized procedures are often needed to measure the outcomes of cystic fibrosis clinical trials. These include both laboratory-based measurements, such as cytology and inflammatory markers, and interpretive outcomes, such as computed tomography and nasal potential difference. For more information about National Resource Centers, please visit: <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/National-Resource-Centers>

II. Program and Award Overview

Program Overview

The Foundation’s Investigator-initiated Clinical Research Programs aim to provide support for academic clinical research projects that have the potential to make an important contribution to the CF Foundation’s mission. Academic clinical research projects may address diagnosis, treatment, management of disease or symptoms, or the pathophysiology of CF using clinical (observational or interventional), translational or epidemiologic study approaches.

The CF Foundation funds investigator-initiated clinical research through the Clinical Pilot and Feasibility (CP&FA), Clinical Research Award (CRA), and the Clinical Research Award Plus (CRA+), and other various targeted funding opportunities that occur throughout the year.

Funding for any investigator-initiated clinical research award is a tier two process. The CF Foundation requires CP&FA, CRA, and CRA+ to submit either a Letter of Intent (LOI) or Concept Proposal in advance of a full application. Full applications are accepted on an invite-only basis; however, applicants may be able to by-pass the LOI with prior approval from the Program Officer.

Over the past three funding cycles, the CF Foundation received a total of 76 LOIs for the CP&FA and CRA. On average, the Foundation invites about 65% of the investigators to submit full applications and funds roughly 40% of full applications. The breakdown for the past three cycles is shown below.

2019	Clinical Pilot & Feasibility Award			Clinical Research Award		
	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
LOIs Received	15	9	20	21	5	6
Full Applications Received*	7	13	20	17	9	10
Funded	4	4	4	11	4	3

Table 1: Number of LOIs and full applications received and funded for the 2019 Spring, 2019 Fall, and 2020 Spring C-P&FA and CRA cycles.

*Full applications which are revised and resubmitted from a previous cycle may bypass the LOI stage.

Award Overview

Clinical Research Awards are offered to provide support for investigator-initiated clinical research projects that have the potential to make an important contribution to the CF Foundation's mission. Research projects may address diagnosis, treatment, management of disease or symptom, or the pathophysiology of CF using clinical (observational/interventional), translational or epidemiologic study approaches. Applicants must demonstrate access to sufficient numbers of CF patients and appropriate controls.

III. Funding Amount

- Applicants may request funding of up to \$150,000 per year, plus an additional twelve (12) percent indirect costs for single-center clinical studies; and up to \$350,000 per year, plus twelve (12) percent indirect costs for multi-center clinical studies.
- Awards may be approved for up to a three (3) year period. Funding for Year 2 and Year 3 is contingent upon submission and approval of a renewal progress report and the availability of funds.

Direct costs may be requested for:

- Salary and Benefits
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Research-related subject costs
- Consultant costs
- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations, including travel
- Travel costs for scientific/technical meeting(s)

Direct costs for the following are unallowable:

- Tuition

Indirect Costs up to twelve (12) percent may be requested from CFF. Indirect costs may be requested for all expenses except for the following:

- Equipment (items over US\$5,000 in value)
- Computer software
- Software licenses

***Applicants may request indirect costs on the first \$25,000 of each subcontract for the project period.**

IV. Eligibility

- United States residents and applicants from outside the United States are welcome to apply.
- Applicants must be independent investigators. An independent investigator is an individual who is out of fellowship training and whose institution allows them to submit applications for research funding as a Principle Investigator.
- Candidates who are clinical fellows should apply to the CFF Clinical Fellowship program for the appropriate year.
- Candidates who are postdoctoral fellows should apply to the CFF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program.
- Industry-sponsored research projects are not eligible to apply through this program and instead should consider applying to the Therapeutics Development Awards program. For additional information, please contact grants@cff.org

V. Mentorship Requirements

Not applicable to this RFA

VI. Goals of Research Currently of Interest to CFF/Priority Areas

Areas of Interest

The CF Foundation seeks applications for the Clinical Research Award from all areas of clinical research that will have an impact on the lives of people with CF. However, the following research areas are of particular interest to the CF Foundation as they will address critical needs of people with CF:

- Studies that investigate CF disease complications (lung, GI tract, liver, pancreas, reproduction, mental health, endocrine etc.)
- Strategies to improve care and quality of life of people with CF
- Assessment and validation of biomarkers, clinical trial tools, outcome measures and efficacy endpoints
- Translational or clinical studies in lung transplant¹ research
- Characterization of CF disease manifestations and management in the era of highly effective modulator therapy
- Novel interventions that improve CF patient care and outcomes
- Studies designed to translate laboratory findings of disease pathogenesis/treatment to clinical evaluation
- Studies that identify and characterize racial, ethnic, and/or societal contributors to CF disease expression and management

Areas of Encouragement

In addition to CF Foundation Areas of Interest, extensive survey input from the CF community (people with CF, family members and caregivers) have identified key research Areas of Encouragement that are most important to them. The areas selected by the CF community are listed below in order of prioritization. Applications may address any topic area advancing CF care, treatment, or research. However, applications addressing the following areas in CF are particularly encouraged:

- [Respiratory Microorganism Detection and Treatment](#)
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (including, but not limited to, GERD, DIOS, and Pancreatitis)
- Reducing Treatment Burden
- CF-related Diabetes
- Diet and Nutrition
- Mental Health
- CF-related Liver Disease (including cirrhosis and non-cirrhosis, gall stones, hepatic steatosis, and other clinical manifestations of portal hypertension)
- Exercise
- Sinus Disease
- Allergies and Asthma
- Alternative/Holistic Treatments and Therapies
- [Sexual Reproductive Health](#)
- Bone/Joint Health
- Pain Management

More information regarding the research priorities of the CF Foundation can be found [here](#). For specific questions regarding your proposal and the CFF's research priorities, please contact the Program Officer, Dara Riva (driva@cff.org).

¹ In 2017, the CF Foundation created the Lung Transplant Initiative to address the unmet needs of people living with cystic fibrosis with advanced lung disease. The mission of this initiative is to improve the care and long-term outcomes of individuals with CF and advanced lung disease. For more information about this initiative, or the CF Foundation's research priorities in lung transplant research, please email Carmen Ufret (cufret@cff.org).

VII. Review and Award

Applications to the Clinical Research Awards program are reviewed by the Clinical Research Committee (CRC), community representative reviewers, and the CFF.

Applications undergo scientific peer-review by the CRC and receive scores based on innovation, scientific merit, and impact on the CF Foundation's mission. Applications will also be evaluated on their experimental design and methods, rationale, and statistical analysis methodology. Applicants should adequately describe how the hypothesis will be tested, demonstrate adequate power for testing the hypothesis, and clearly define all variables in their statistical analysis section. Applicants are required to consult with a biostatistician prior to submitting their proposals. In addition, applicants are required to include a biostatistician with a minimum of 5% effort on their project.

Community representative reviewers evaluate applications based on study design and feasibility from the perspective of people with CF. They also evaluate the project on its relevance to the CF Foundation's mission and the project's potential to impact those living with CF. Community representative reviewers do not review an application for scientific merit. Reviews from the community representative reviewers are used to inform funding decisions.

Funding of awards is approved by the CFF Board of Directors and is based on the availability of funds, priority score assigned to each application, and recommendations of the CRC, community representative reviewers, and CFF Program Officers. All awards are subject to compliance with applicable regulations and CFF policies.

Chief reasons for assigning low priority scores to applications during review include the following:

- Insufficient information or documentation
- Inadequate statement of hypothesis, experimental design or methods
- Failure of the applicant to describe potential relevance of the proposed study to issues in CF
- Failure of the applicant to document the necessary skills or training to accomplish the goals of the proposal
- Failure of the applicant to meet all the criteria described in these guidelines
- Failure of the applicant to demonstrate adequate level of statistical support and appropriate plan for data analysis

CFF may withdraw applications receiving low scores, and/or those deemed nonresponsive to the program announcement, before the CRC review meeting. In these cases, CFF will notify applicants if their application has been withdrawn without discussion. Applications that have not been discussed in two review meetings will not be accepted for further consideration by CFF. Applicants must address reviewer critiques in order to resubmit their applications during future application cycles.

VIII. Submission Information

**A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted and approved prior to submitting a Full Application
Applicants may only submit one LOI and one full application per cycle.**

Submit online at <https://awards.cff.org>

(Refer to Section IX and X of these guidelines for specific submission instructions)

An application will be considered incomplete if it fails to comply with the instructions, or if the submitted material is insufficient to permit adequate review. CFF reviews applications electronically, and only documents submitted online at <https://awards.cff.org> will be reviewed.

Specific requests regarding a deviation from these guidelines must be submitted to the Program Officer Dara Riva (driva@cff.org) for approval prior to submitting their application.

General Timeline:

	Fall 2021 Cycle
Published	January 25, 2021
Pre-Registration Deadline*	March 5, 2021
LOI Submission Deadline	March 19, 2021
LOI Applicant Notified	June 2021
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Committee Review Date	October 2021
Notification to Applicants	November 2021
Earliest Project Start Date	January 1, 2022

*We highly encourage that you pre-register your profile, institution, contacts, and Title of your Application by this date. This will confirm that your submission at the Application Deadline, is without any system-related issue. It will also allow us to assist you on system-related queries before the Application Deadline. This pre-registration is for new applicants to the system and will only need to be completed once.

IX. Letter of Intent Guidelines

LOIs Submission Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EST)

Applications must be submitted online at <https://awards.cff.org>

Investigators with a previously approved LOI who did not submit a full application, and/or investigators submitting a revised application may request to bypass the LOI stage. These requests must be e-mailed to grants@cff.org with “**Clinical Research Award LOI Bypass Request**” in the subject line. LOI bypasses are granted on a case-by-case basis and the CFF Grants and Contracts Office will send a notification of the final determination.

Applicants whose **LOI was not approved in an earlier submission** may resubmit the LOI with (1) appropriate revisions, and (2) an attachment that provides a point-by-point response to the limitations noted by the reviewers.

Documents should be typed using:

- Font: Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11
- Margins: No less than a half inch on each side

Note: When all the documents have been uploaded to awards.cff.org, the system will compile them into a single PDF file. You may preview this file by selecting “LOI Application Full Print”, as well as exporting the compiled PDF file.

To login, please visit: <https://awards.cff.org>

For all first-time applicants in the new Grants Management System, we ask that you pre-register to create a username and password for “<http://awards.cff.org>” and complete a profile well before the date you plan to submit an application. We also request that as you begin your application, you enter the title of your project, if available. If you are registered and cannot remember your password, click on the “**Forgot Password?**” link below the “**Login**” fields.

Once logged in, the award opportunities, including this Request for Applications (RFA), will be listed in the **Funding Opportunities** tab on the opening screen.

Locate the listing for the **“Clinical Research Award with LOI”** program. Click on the **“Apply”** button in the column on the far right to open the application form.

Applicants may stop at any point but must click the **“Save”** button at the bottom of each page *before exiting* in order to save their progress. When you wish to return to your draft application, please do not go through the **“Funding Opportunities”** tab. Instead, go to the **“My Applications”** tab in the right corner of the main page. When you are in the **“My Applications”** tab you will be able to find all your draft applications by clicking on the **“Draft Applications”** module.

The following sections are displayed as tabs across the application screen. Click on each section and follow the directions. Click **“Save”** as you complete each section.

GENERAL

Enter the title of your project, enter the project start and end dates, select the number of periods being requested, and complete any additional questions. Also, please complete the organizational assurances indications (i.e. IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC/rDNA approval letter and status at the time of submitting the application) in this section.

CONTACT PROFILE

If a profile was completed upon registration, the fields in this section will already be populated with the information entered in your Professional Profile. If you need to make any changes, you may update your profile in this section.

Once updated you must **“Save and Validate”** prior to returning to continue your submission

INSTITUTION

If a profile was completed upon registration, the applicant’s/principal investigator’s institution will be pre-loaded as the Lead Institution. Domestic applicants must verify their institution by entering the Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN) to search the system for the correct institution. You may find your EIN by referencing the Institutional W-9 or equivalent documentation. If the EIN/TIN is not located in our system, you have the option to add the legal institution. Please also confirm if the project site is the same as the legal institution.

Verification of Applicant Institution’s Tax Status (upload as PDF documents):

The CFF Grants and Contracts Office must have a copy of the applicant institution’s current W-9 and 501(c)3 letter, or other documentation verifying its Federal tax status and will not issue Award Letters to Awardees if these documents are not received and on file.

- Applicants from for-profit organizations must submit a copy of the applicant institution’s W-9 and IRS documentation verifying the organization’s Federal tax status. Awards are not issued prior to having these documents on file with the CFF Grants and Contracts Office.
- Non-U.S. applicants must provide a copy of the W-8BEN-E form (required). In addition, a tax equivalency letter should be uploaded, if available. If a tax equivalency letter is not available, applicants must upload a letter stating this documentation is not available.

International Applicants (if applicable):

For international applicants, you will need to answer an eligibility question specifying if you are an independent investigator. If answering yes, CFF may require an additional letter of support to be added to the application to verify eligibility.

Applicants whose institution is not a United States based-entity will be contacted to provide additional information and completion a CFF International Institution Form. The completion of this form also includes submission of the following documentation:

- A copy of the institution's most recent Mission Statement.
- A copy of the institution's tax status documentation or equivalent, or a letter stating it is not available.
- A brief description of other sources of support, such as official awards, private endowments, and commercial activities, received by the institution.
- A copy of the institution's Standard Operating Procedure(s) or relevant policy to ensure that funds provided are neither distributed to terrorists or their support networks, nor are funds used for activities that support terrorism or terrorist organizations.
- For-profit institutions must submit a complete list of key employees, members of the governing board, and/or other senior management.

Applicants who have provided these documents within the past one (1) year is not required to resubmit them. However, if any of the above documents have been updated since they were previously submitted, please upload any updated documents. The CFF Grants and Contracts Office will contact applicants if documents are outdated or missing.

***Applicants must provide English translations for all non-English documents, including material provided in support of the Research Plan.**

APPLICATION CONTACTS

Please note: The INSTITUTION tab must be completed prior to adding internal contacts to ensure that the contacts are properly associated with the applicant institution.

Complete the required contact fields by searching by name for existing contacts at your institution for each role. If the desired institutional contact is not available in the system, you may select "**Add Internal Contact**" to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to your application.

Additional contacts not associated with the applicant institution may also be added. These contacts are considered additional contributors involved in the proposed research plan. These may include co-mentors, consultants, collaborators, or subcontractors. If the desired external contact is not available in the system, you may select "**Add External Contact**" to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to your application.

ABSTRACTS/RELEVANCE

In the space provided online for each abstract, provide a statement of no more than 2,000 characters (including spaces) explaining the subject of the research proposal and its relationship to CF. Two different abstracts are required, as follows:

- **Lay Abstract:** This statement will be used to inform the non-scientific departments of CFF and the general public of the nature of this work. Applicants should not include any confidential or proprietary information, including intellectual property, in the lay abstract.
- **Scientific Abstract:** This statement will be used to inform the scientific community.
- **Summary of Relevance to CFF mission:** All applications are reviewed and scored not only on scientific merit but also on relevance to CFF's mission:

The mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with CF the opportunity to lead long, fulfilling lives by funding research and drug development, partnering with the CF community, and advancing high-quality, specialized care.

Provide a statement of no more than 3,000 characters (including spaces) summarizing the relevance of the proposed research to the health and well-being of CF patients, for a scientific audience who may or may not have a background in the subspecialty of the proposed research.

BUDGET

Select the “**Open**” button under the Budget tab and complete the relevant budget categories for each year of funding. Fill in the applicable amounts for each year of support requested by completing the online fields (Period 1, 2, 3). All Clinical Research Awards are awarded for a maximum of three (3) years, up to:

- \$150,000/year in direct costs (plus an additional 12% indirect costs) for a single-center Clinical Research Award
- \$350,000/year in direct costs (plus an additional 12% indirect costs) for a multi-center Clinical Research Awards

Be sure to click “**Save**” prior to closing the budget window.

LOI UPLOADS

Download the available templates applicable to the project, upload the completed templates in PDF format to the corresponding attachment types within this section. Templates available for download include:

- Biographical Sketch(es) of Key Personnel
- Response to Prior LOI Critique (if resubmission)
- LOI Project Description
- CFF Patient Registry Data Request (if applicable)
- CFF Biorepository Clinical Specimen Confirmation Letter (if applicable)

Biographical Sketch(es) of Key Personnel (NIH template available for download)

CFF defines “key project personnel” as any individual with an advanced degree who will play an instrumental role in the research project. An NIH Biographical Sketch form should be completed for each key project personnel and uploaded as PDF. The maximum length for each biosketch is five (5) pages. Personnel must include a biostatistician with a minimum of 5% effort during the entire project period.

Response to Prior LOI Critique (template available for download, if applicable)

Resubmissions of LOI applications that were previously not approved are required to make a point-by-point response to the limitations noted in the critique of the earlier submission.

LOI Project Description (template available for download)

Upload a PDF copy of the completed document. Maximum of three (3) pages (not including the literature cited). Components should include:

- **Statement of Hypothesis and Specific Aims:** State concisely and realistically the intent of the proposed research and the hypothesis to be tested. The specific aims should be relevant to the mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
- **Brief Study Design:** Describe the study design, including a statistical section. The statistical section must include a detailed power or a sample size analysis on the primary and major secondary analysis. These analyses should include formulas and estimates used to arrive at the sample.

- **Literature Cited:** References should be numbered in the sequence that they appear in the text. Each citation must include the names of authors, the name of the journal or book, volume number, page number and year of publication (titles are optional).

CFF Patient Registry Data Request (if applicable)

CF Foundation Patient Registry. Applicants whose project will include requesting data from the CF Foundation Patient Registry should check the appropriate box. It is not necessary to check the box for single site studies or studies acquiring Registry data from the biorepository. Please note: if the LOI is approved for full submission, the applicant will need to submit the project for review by the Registry / Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) committee prior to grant submission. Instruction regarding submission for review are located at: <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/Patient-Registry-Data-Requests/>

CFF Biorepository Clinical Specimen Confirmation Letter (if applicable)

Since 2006, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has collected and stored samples from a variety of clinical trials. The CF Foundation has developed a database that combines information from these samples with data from CF clinical trials and the CF Foundation Patient Registry to create a unique and specific sample profile. To request clinical samples to use in the proposed study, download and complete the [template](https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/CFFT-Biorepository/) from <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/CFFT-Biorepository/>. Applicants must supply a letter from the clinical research program manager confirming samples are available for their use with their LOI submission. For more information, contact Linh Do, CF Foundation clinical research program manager, at ldo@cff.org or 301-841-2648.

Note: If applicable, funding is contingent upon approval and availability to access clinical specimens.

Submission

Prior to selecting “Submit”, please complete a thorough review of the entire LOI. The “Submit” button will trigger validation on all required fields and identify any errors.

X. Full Application Guidelines

Full Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EST)

A Letter of Intent (LOI) must have been submitted and approved prior to receiving an invitation to proceed with a Full Application

Applications must be submitted online at <https://awards.cff.org>

Documents should be typed using:

- Font: Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11
- Margins: No less than a half inch on each side

Note: When all the documents have been uploaded to awards.cff.org, the system will compile them into a single PDF file. You may preview this file by selecting “Application Full Print”, as well as exporting the compiled PDF file.

To login, please visit: <https://awards.cff.org>

If the LOI submission is approved to proceed to a full application submission, the application will have already been pre-loaded in the system. Log in with your existing credentials to access the application.

Your draft application will be listed under “**My Applications**”, then within the “**Draft Applications**” section. Upon locating the draft application, you may select it to begin your submission.

Applicants may stop at any point but must click the “**Save**” button before exiting in order to save their progress.

The following sections are displayed as tabs across the application screen. Click on each section and follow the directions. Click “**Save**” as you complete each section.

Please note: Only select the “**Submit to AIO**” button after the application has been fully completed. This will trigger validation on all required fields and send the application to your Authorized Institutional Official “AIO” for review and signature.

GENERAL

Enter the title of your project, enter the project start and end dates, select the number of periods being requested, and complete any additional questions. Also, please complete the organizational assurances indications (i.e. IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC/rDNA approval letter and status at the time of submitting the application) in this section.

***Please ensure that you review and comply with the Organizational Assurances and Certifications as cited on page 21.**

CONTACT PROFILE

If a profile was completed during the LOI, the fields in this section will already be populated with the information entered in your Professional Profile. If you need to make any changes, you may update your profile in this section.

Once updated you must “**Save and Validate**” prior to returning to continue your submission

INSTITUTION

If a profile was completed upon registration, the applicant’s/principal investigator’s institution will be pre-loaded as the Lead Institution. Domestic applicants must verify their institution by entering the Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN) to search the system for the correct institution. You may find your EIN by referencing the Institutional W-9 or equivalent documentation. If the EIN/TIN is not located in our system, you have the option to add the legal institution. Please also confirm if the project site is the same as the legal institution.

Verification of Applicant Institution’s Tax Status (upload as PDF documents):

The CFF Grants and Contracts Office must have a copy of the applicant institution’s current W-9 and 501(c)3 letter, or other documentation verifying its Federal tax status and will not issue Award Letters to Awardees if these documents are not received and on file.

- Applicants from for-profit organizations must submit a copy of the applicant institution’s W-9 and IRS documentation verifying the organization’s Federal tax status. Awards are not issued prior to having these documents on file with the CFF Grants and Contracts Office.
- Non-U.S. applicants must provide a copy of the W-8BEN-E form (required). In addition, a tax equivalency letter should be uploaded, if available. If a tax equivalency letter is not available, applicants must upload a letter stating this documentation is not available.

International Applicants (if applicable):

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Applicants whose institution is not a United States based-entity will be contacted to provide additional information and completion a CFF International Institution Form. The completion of this form also includes submission of the following documentation:

- A copy of the institution’s most recent Mission Statement.
- A copy of the institution’s tax status documentation or equivalent, or a letter stating it is not available.
- A brief description of other sources of support, such as official awards, private endowments, and commercial activities, received by the institution.
- A copy of the institution’s Standard Operating Procedure(s) or relevant policy to ensure that funds provided are neither distributed to terrorists or their support networks, nor are funds used for activities that support terrorism or terrorist organizations.
- For-profit institutions must submit a complete list of key employees, members of the governing board, and/or other senior management.

Applicants who have provided these documents within the past one (1) year is not required to resubmit them. However, if any of the above documents have been updated since they were previously submitted, please upload any updated documents. The CFF Grants and Contracts Office will contact applicants if documents are outdated or missing.

***Applicants must provide English translations for all non-English documents, including material provided in support of the Research Plan.**

CONTACTS

Please note: The INSTITUTION tab must be completed prior to adding internal contacts to ensure that the contacts are properly associated with the applicant institution.

If added during the LOI, this will be pre-populated but can be changed during the full application. Complete the required contact fields by searching by name for existing contacts at your institution for each role. If the desired institutional contact is not available in the system, you may select “**Add Internal Contact**” to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to your application.

Additional contacts not associated with the applicant institution may also be added. These contacts are considered additional contributors involved in the proposed research plan. These may include co-mentors, consultants, collaborators, or subcontractors. If the desired external contact is not available in the system, you may select “**Add External Contact**” to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to your application.

REFERENCES

CFF defines “junior investigator” as any individual who has not received a CFF/CFFT Research Grant or NIH equivalent (e.g. R01, R21, R23) as a Principal Investigator OR is within their first five years of their first academic appointment at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent. Letters of Reference for junior investigators must be submitted by the following individuals:

- **The Chair of the applicant’s department at the applicant Institution** – The letter of reference from the Department Chair should indicate the release of sufficient space and facilities for the work described, as well as guarantee the time commitment of the investigator to the project. If the applicant is currently a fellow, the letter of reference should include confirmation of the pending faculty-level appointment.

- **At least two other individuals** familiar with the applicant's scientific interests and abilities.

Letters of Reference must be submitted prior to submission of the application. To invite Referees, go to the “REFERENCES” tab of the online application, and first search for the referee using the lookup field. If the referee is not located in the system, you may select “Add Referee” to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to the application. Once added, this will generate automated emails (with instructions) that will be sent to each Referee. **The applicant will not be alerted when a reference is completed or declined; please make sure to check this tab regularly to see the status of the references.** The applicant should inform Referees to submit the letters at least one (1) week prior to the application deadline. This helps to ensure that the letters have been uploaded before the application is submitted. Once the application has been submitted, no documents can be added.

Letters uploaded to <http://awards.cff.org> should not be password protected or otherwise encrypted. Such encryption will cause errors in assembling a single-print PDF of the application. The applicant should inform the individuals writing letters to not include password protection on their documents.

***Senior investigators, or those who have received a prior CFF/CFRT Research Grant or NIH equivalent, are not required to submit Letters of Reference; however, if they are new to CF research, Letters of Support and/or Collaboration should be provided and uploaded as Appendices.**

ABSTRACTS/RELEVANCE

In the space provided online for each abstract, provide a statement of no more than 2,000 characters (including spaces) explaining the subject of the research proposal and its relationship to CF. Two different abstracts are required, as follows:

- **Lay Abstract:** This statement will be used to inform the non-scientific departments of CFF and the general public of the nature of this work. Applicants should not include any confidential or proprietary information, including intellectual property, in the lay abstract.
- **Scientific Abstract:** This statement will be used to inform the scientific community.
- **Summary of Relevance to CFF mission:** All applications are reviewed and scored not only on scientific merit but also on relevance to CFF’s mission:

The mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with CF the opportunity to lead long, fulfilling lives by funding research and drug development, partnering with the CF community, and advancing high-quality, specialized care.

Provide a statement of no more than 3,000 characters (including spaces) summarizing the relevance of the proposed research to the health and well-being of CF patients, for a scientific audience who may or may not have a background in the subspecialty of the proposed research.

BUDGET

Select the “Edit Budget” button under Application Budget, to enter and begin completion of the application’s budget detail for each year of funding being requested. Awards funded through this RFA are for a maximum of three (3) years.

- For a single center project, the budget may not exceed **\$150,000 in direct costs per year (plus 12% indirect costs) for a maximum of three (3) years.** This amount is inclusive of the cost of any subcontracts.
- For a multi-center project, the budget may not exceed **\$350,000 per year in direct costs (plus 12% indirect costs) for a maximum of three (3) years.** This amount is inclusive of the cost of any subcontracts.
- Applicants are required to include a biostatistician with a minimum of 5% effort on their project.

- Services that are part of routine medical care (as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) may not be included in the project budget. Whenever possible, the price of services (e.g., X-rays, EKGs, PFTs, etc.) provided by the institution should be negotiated to the lowest possible non-profit price.
- Separate professional fees for interpretation of data (e.g., from X-rays, lab tests, PFTs) may not be included when such interpretation is performed by the named investigator(s), co-investigator(s), or consultants as part of the project, other than in exceptional circumstances. In such cases, justification for these fees must be described in detail in the budget justification template.
- Under most circumstances, hospitalization costs of study subjects cannot be included in this budget.

The following budget categories are offered under this program:

Salary & Benefits - List the names, positions, and percent effort of all professional and non-professional personnel involved in the project, whether or not salaries are requested. For each individual, be sure to complete all fields on the Budget Detail in full on the template provided. In accordance with National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy, salary requests may not use an institutional base salary in excess of the current federal salary cap of **\$199,300**. Fringe benefits may be requested if they are treated consistently by the applicant institution as a direct cost to all funding agencies and foundations.

Consultant Costs - Give the name and institutional affiliation of any consultant who has agreed to serve in this capacity, including statisticians and physicians in connection with the project if they are not listed under personnel. In the budget justification, briefly describe services to be performed, the number of days, rate of compensation, per diem and any other associated costs. Qualifying consultants are individuals that are generally not employed at the applicant institution and/or are consulting independently to the project.

Travel - Describe the purpose of any CF-relevant travel. Please note: expenses for travel outside the North American continent for domestic applicants, including travel to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories are not allowable expenses without prior written approval from the CFF Grants and Contracts Office. Travel expenses may not exceed **\$2,000 per person, per year**. Additional travel expenses may be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Registration fees associated with conferences should be listed under "Other Expenses."

Consumable Supplies - Itemize supplies e.g. glassware, chemicals, animals, in separate categories and give the estimated cost of each category. If animals are involved, state the number, unit purchase cost, and unit care cost.

Major Equipment - List all items of equipment greater than **\$5,000** requested and the cost of each item. If funds are requested to purchase equipment that is equivalent to items listed under "Facilities Available", justify the duplication. Justify any item of equipment for which the need may not be obvious.

Other Expenses - Itemize other expenses by major categories, such as duplication costs, publication costs, minor equipment (under \$5,000), computer charges, conference registration fees, etc. Tuition costs may be requested for personnel supported through this study but may not exceed **\$10,000** per person per year.

Patient Research Costs – Funds may be requested for patient research costs specifically related to the proposed research. The basis for estimating funds requested in this category must be justified and applicants must provide detailed information regarding the proposed costs (e.g., number of procedures, cost per procedure, ancillary costs). The scientific need for patient research costs will be considered in the review. Negotiation of these costs are between the applicant institution and the service provider.

If approved as part of the application, patient research costs are capped at the amount requested in the budget and under no circumstances is CFF responsible for any costs that are later determined non-covered by third party insurers. Applicants and applicant institutions acknowledge that CFF is solely a provider of funding

for the research performed under an approved award and not a sponsor of the research as defined by the FDA (21 CFR §312.3(b)).

Subcontractor Summary – If applicable, detailed budgets for each subcontract, including indirects, must be provided for each year of support. Subcontractors are added in the prior section entitled “Application Contacts”. The lead/prime applicant PI can initiate/complete the subcontract budget directly, place it in “Pending PI Acceptance”, as well as “Submit” the subcontractor budget to be included as part of the application.

Please note: the subcontractor budget cannot be edited once the “Submit” button is selected.

If desired, the subcontractor can be notified to login and initiate/complete their respective budget detail(s) and justification. The subcontractor would then choose the “Pending PI Acceptance” button to send the budget to the lead PI for review. The lead/prime PI is able to edit the subcontractor budget prior to choosing “Submit”. Please ensure that the subcontractor budget is complete and accurate prior to accepting/submitting. **Please note: the subcontractor budget cannot be edited once the “Submit” button is selected.**

For applications that include a subcontract with a third party, the applicant may request indirect costs on the first \$25,000 of each subcontract per project period. Negotiations of subcontracts are between the applicant institution and the subcontractor.

Budget Detail – Indirect Costs

Indirect costs of up to twelve (12) percent may be requested from CFF. Indirect costs may be requested for all expenses except for the following:

- Major equipment (items over \$5,000 in value)
- Computer software
- Software licenses

Applicants may request indirect costs on the first \$25,000 of each subcontract for the project period.

LOI UPLOADS

This section will allow access to the documentation uploaded at the LOI stage.

FULL APPLICATION UPLOADS

Download the available templates applicable to the project, upload the completed templates in PDF format to the corresponding attachment types within this section. Templates available for download include:

- Instructions for Requesting Letters of Reference
- Collaboration Detail Template (required for multi-site studies; if applicable)
- Research Plan
- Protocol Synopsis
- Critique Response (LOI or resubmission)
- Budget Justification
- Biographical Sketches of Key Personnel
- Other Support
- Facilities Available
- Results of past and current CFF/CFFT Support
- Names and Addresses of References for Junior Investigators
- Data Safety Monitoring Plan
- [CFF Patient Registry Data Request Application](#)

Collaboration Detail Template (template available for download, if applicable)

For multi-site studies only: On the provided template please list each collaborator, including their institute and responsibilities or resources they are dedicating to the project.

Research Plan (template available for download)

- Key figures and legends must be included in the Research Plan. If uploaded as Appendices, they will NOT be reviewed.
- At the top of each page, type the PI's name. Each page must be sequentially numbered at the bottom.
- Research Plans are limited to twelve (12) single-sided pages, not including the Literature Cited. Applications exceeding this page limit will not be reviewed. Include sufficient information to permit effective review without reference to previous applications. Information should be presented in a clear and concise manner, while being specific and informative.
- If the application is a resubmission of an earlier one, revisions should be clearly indicated by a change in font, or bolded or underlined. CFF will not review resubmissions that have not been revised. Applicant's will only be allowed to revise and resubmit their full application for a specific project one time unless granted permission from the CFF Program Officer.
 - a. **Hypotheses and Specific Aims:** State concisely and realistically the intent of the proposed research and the hypothesis to be tested. Do not exceed one page. The focus of applications should be aligned with the mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with the disease the opportunity to lead full, productive lives by funding research and drug development, promoting individualized treatment, and ensuring access to high-quality, specialized care.
 - b. **Background and Significance:** Briefly describe the background of the present proposal. Critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. Concisely state the importance and rationale of this research by relating the specific aims to longer-term objectives. This section should also show the potential importance of the proposed work to CF. In addition, the applicant should describe the relationship of the proposed work to his/her long-term career goals. Preference will be given to those applicants who have an interest in a long-term career in CF-related research.
 - c. **Preliminary Studies:** Summarize any preliminary work pertinent to this application that has been undertaken by the Principal Investigator(s) and/or information that will establish the competence and/or experience of the investigator(s) to pursue the proposed study.
 - d. **Experimental Design and Methods:** Provide a detailed discussion of the experimental design and procedures to be used to accomplish specific aims. Please discuss: study hypothesis; primary and secondary outcome measures; study sample-inclusion and exclusion criteria; sample size estimates*; subject enrollment including age range; pubertal status (if applicable); sex distribution; randomization scheme (if applicable); description of experimental procedures and schedule including a study time-line; drugs and dosage; measures of compliance; follow-up schedule including a study time-line for full project up to three years; efficacy and safety evaluation, data monitoring and quality control; and a description of your proposed data analysis and statistical procedures for your hypothesis testing. Although no page limit is specified for this section, make every attempt to be concise and succinct.
***For sample size estimates**, please provide all estimates of means, standard deviations, rates or proportions used to calculate each of your sample size or power estimates. Please include in the statistical section whether you will use a one or two-tailed test, the power selected for such a test (if making a sample size calculation), and the reference for your sample size or power calculation. In instances of pilot studies where some of these parameters are unknown, we will accept your best estimates of the unknown parameters if preliminary data are not available, and if your calculation is a preliminary estimate before formal sample size can be calculated for a larger study. Please identify if you are making estimates from data or from personal estimates. This section must document access to adequate numbers of subjects.

If the Sponsor(s) is not a CF Center Director or Co-Director, a letter of support from the Center Director is required (upload as a PDF document in Section #10, as an Appendix).

- e. **Limitations and Potential Pitfalls:** Discuss potential difficulties and/or limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve aims. Point out any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel or patients and the precautions to be exercised.
- f. **Consultant Arrangements:** If the proposed project includes consultant arrangements and/or collaboration with other individuals outside the applicant's group, describe the working relationships and support this description by letter(s) of intent signed by collaborating individual(s). If clinical material required by this award is to be furnished by other individuals, include a statement from these individuals agreeing to their participation and precautions taken to ensure anonymity of patients.
- g. **Literature Cited:** References should be numbered in the sequence that they appear in the text and listed at the end of the Research Plan. Each citation must include the names of authors, the name of the journal or book, volume number, page number and year of publication (titles are optional).

Protocol Synopsis (template available for download, if applicable)

Complete the information required in the available template for each aspect of the study protocol.

Critique Response (template available for download, if applicable)

For new applications: Provide a point-by-point response to the limitations noted in the critiques of the LOI, using the template provided.

For resubmissions: Provide a point-by-point response to the prior reviews.

There is no page limit to your responses, but please be concise and succinct. Beginning in 2018, applicant's will only be allowed to revise and resubmit their full application for a specific project one time unless granted permission from the CFF Program Officer.

Budget Justification (template available for download)

Describe costs listed in the Budget Detail. Use major categories, such as Salary & Benefits, Consultant Costs, Major Equipment, etc. Justify all items and make sure amounts and figures listed in the narrative are consistent with those listed in the Budget Detail.

Biographical Sketches for Key Personnel (template available for download)

Complete and upload an NIH Biographical Sketch for all key project personnel, beginning with the Applicant/Principal Investigator. International applicants can upload a biosketch that is equivalent in content to the NIH template provided. (CFF defines "key personnel" as any individual with an advanced degree that will play an instrumental role in the accomplishment of the research project.) Do not exceed five (5) pages per person.

Other Support (template available for download)

Complete and upload the Other Support form for all key project personnel, beginning with the Applicant/Principal Investigator. There is no page limitation. Information on other support assists CFF in the identification and resolution of potential sources of overlap. Scientific and budgetary overlap should be minimized. Commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted.

Facilities Available (template available for download)

Describe the facilities and equipment available at the applicant's institution that will be used for this project, such as laboratory, clinical, animal, computer, office, etc. Provide any additional information about the environment, including any support services available that will be utilized. Describe their pertinent capabilities, proximity and anticipated extent of use. If facilities or equipment at a consultant's or collaborative site will be used, they should be identified and clearly described. There is no page limit. Use continuation pages, if necessary.

Results of Past and Current CFF/CFFT Support (template available for download)

Identify the results of past and current CFF/CFFT support (e.g., subsequent funding from other sources, journal articles, and invited presentations) and the CFF/CFFT award from which they resulted for the past five years. Please note that the following information must be included with each research project identified:

- CFF/CFFT Award #
- Principal Investigator (PI)
- CFF/CFFT Project Title
- Applicant's Title on Project
- Project Start/End Dates
- Total CFF/CFFT Award Amount
- Results of Support

Names and Addresses of References for Junior Investigators (template available for download)

List the names, titles, and contact information of the individuals who have been asked to submit Letters of Reference on the applicant's behalf. A PDF copy of the completed form should be uploaded. Though not required to submit Letters of Reference, Senior investigators should still check the box in the template that identifies them as Senior investigators and upload the form to awards.cff.org

Data Safety Monitoring Plan (template available for download, upload if applicable)

In compliance with Federal regulations, all applicants must submit a general description of the Data Safety Monitoring Plan (DSMP) for any proposed study that places human subjects at more than minimal risk. A DSMP helps to ensure subject safety, as well the validity and integrity of the data. Furthermore, a DSMP allows for the monitoring of study data to assess whether or not an early termination is necessary for safety or efficacy reasons.

The extent of monitoring required for a study is dependent on the level of risk involved for the subjects, as well as the size and complexity of the study. Large, multi-center CFF-funded interventional clinical trials may be required to utilize a Data Safety and Monitoring Board (DSMB). In addition, because its members are CF clinicians and clinical trial experts, CFF strongly encourages and may require that investigators utilize the CFF DSMB for any other interventional CF clinical trial that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Multi-center;
- Randomized;
- Conducted in an emergency setting;
- Use high-risk interventions, such as gene therapy, gene transfer, or bronchoscopy; or Include particularly vulnerable study populations, such as pediatric patients.

Note: *On the available template, please check whether a DSMP is required and upload the template regardless of the response.*

Address the following areas in the DSMP:

Assessment of Risk – Describe the level of risk the proposed research presents to subject participants and provide a detailed justification for the level of risk. Discuss who will monitor the study.

Level of Risk

- Minimal Risk
 - Study poses no more risk than expected in daily life (blood draw, physical exam, etc.)
 - Observational studies
 - Survey or questionnaire studies
- Low Risk

- Post-marketing study Phase IV drug or device, as defined by FDA
- Moderate Risk
 - Substantial risk (>5%) of a Serious Adverse Event (SAE) originating from the underlying condition of the enrolled subject
 - Phase I or II study with available safety data in humans
- High Risk
 - Involves an intervention or invasive procedure with substantial risk
 - Involves the use of a new chemical or drug for which there is little or no toxicology data in humans
 - A gene therapy study or research involving recombinant DNA or RNA molecules (gene transfer)
 - Involves vulnerable populations (pediatric, pregnant, etc.)

Anticipated Adverse Events and Grading Scale – Describe anticipated adverse events (AEs), including expected frequency and the grading scale to be used. Discuss plans for addressing AEs.

Reporting of AEs – Detail the plan for reporting AEs, including who shall be notified in the event an AE should occur.

Safety Monitoring Plan – Describe all tests, evaluations, and exclusion criteria that will be implemented to ensure and monitor the safety of human subjects. Discuss stopping rules for the study subjects or for the overall study if necessary.

Safety Reviews – Describe the process for monitoring and reviewing subject safety data, including the frequency of such reviews. Include details as to who will perform the monitoring and plans for reporting. If utilizing the CFF DSMB, provide the frequency of meetings, the reporting requirements, including AEs and SAEs, and the procedure for interim reporting as necessary. If this information is not available at the time of submission of the application, note that CFF will not release awarded payments until it is provided.

Registrations for Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials:

- [Clinicaltrials.gov \(United States\)](https://clinicaltrials.gov): Applicants are required to register all non-exempt human subject studies in the ClinicalTrials.gov database to ensure information is freely available on CFF-funded trials within the community. The registration should be no later than twenty-one (21) days after the first subject is enrolled. CFF requires copies of documentation confirming this registration, when applicable.
- [EudraCT Registration \(European Union\)](https://eudract.europa.eu): For interventional clinical trials with medicinal products conducted in the European Union, the Institution must provide documentation to CFF confirming registration of the clinical trial when applicable.

CFF Patient Registry Data Request (download available, upload if applicable)

Researchers who wish to request Registry data for their proposed clinical research study must complete and submit the “Application for CFFPR Data and Confidentiality Agreement” application to datarequests@cff.org prior to submitting their full application to CFF. The formal application for CFF Patient Registry Data Requests can be found at <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/Patient-Registry-Data-Requests/>

Note: *The application must be submitted using the online system available from the link above and the email from the system indicating receipt of the application must be uploaded to the submission. Funding is contingent upon approval to access registry data.*

CFF Biorepository Clinical Specimen Confirmation Letter (if applicable)

Since 2006, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has collected and stored samples from a variety of clinical trials. The CF Foundation has developed a database that combines information from these samples with data from CF clinical trials and the CF Foundation Patient Registry to create a unique and specific sample profile. To request clinical samples to use in the proposed study, download and complete the [template](https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/CFFT-Biorepository/) from <https://www.cff.org/Research/Researcher-Resources/Tools-and-Resources/CFFT-Biorepository/>. Applicants must supply a letter from the clinical research program manager confirming samples are available for their use with their LOI submission. For more information, contact Linh Do, CF Foundation clinical research program manager, at ldo@cff.org or 301-841-2648.

Note: Applicants must upload the confirmation letter provided by the CFF Clinical Research Program Manager to the application. Funding is contingent upon approval and availability to access clinical specimens.

Appendices (upload as PDF documents)

Appendices are restricted to the following three (3) categories*:

- Signed Letters of Support and/or Collaboration: A Letter of Collaboration from Co-PIs, if any, should be uploaded and included in the application. Investigators new to CF research are required to consult/collaborate with an established CF investigator/clinician either at their own institution or another. The letter from the collaborator/consultant should be explicit as to how the proposed work is relevant to CF and how he/she will assist the investigator new to CF research.
Note: Junior investigators must provide such letters by contacting referees via section #6 of the navigation bar.
- Certification of IRB approval, or other applicable organization assurances documents such as IACUC and IBC Approval Letters, if available at the time of application.
- Up to three (3) reprints of the applicant's work relating to the general area of research in the proposal may be uploaded in PDF format.

***No other types of Appendices will be reviewed.**

***Organization Assurances & Certifications**

CFF requires, as applicable, that all U.S.-based awardees obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals for human subject research, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) approval for recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid research, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval for animal research, (see additional information regarding these approvals below). Copies of these approvals, if available at the time the application is submitted, must be uploaded with the application as appendices. CFF will not release payments to awardee institutions until these documents are received and on file with the CFF Grants and Contracts Office.

Awardees based outside of the U.S. must comply with the applicable equivalent regulations in their respective countries and provide copies of approvals as soon as they are available. CFF will not release payments until these documents are received and on file with the CFF Grants and Contracts Office.

Research Involving Human Subjects: CFF policy pertaining to the protection of individuals as research subjects requires that for each proposal awarded, the awardee institution certify in writing that an Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed and approved the procedures for the use of human subjects, or human organs, tissues and body fluids, in the proposed research, in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services policies found at <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/index.html>. In the event the IRB has determined a study is exempt, documentation demonstrating the exempt status must also be submitted to the CFF Grants and Contracts Office.

Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules: All research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid and human gene transfer studies supported by CFF must meet the requirements contained in the document *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (updated April 2019)*. This publication and announcements of modifications and changes to the NIH Guidelines are available from the Office of Science and Policy, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Ste 750, MSC 7985, Bethesda, MD, 20892-7985 or online at https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Guidelines.pdf.

Research Involving Animals: Applications submitted to CFF involving the use of animals must meet the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>, which require that all proposed studies be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). In addition, CFF awardee institutions and laboratories must be accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) and/or have other verifiable assurances that the institution and laboratory meet appropriate standards.

Validation and Submission

Prior to selecting “**Sign & Submit to AIO**”, please complete a thorough review of the entire application. The “**Sign & Submit to AIO**” button will trigger validation on all required fields and identify any upload errors or incomplete fields. Upon selecting Sign & Submit to AIO, the ability to edit the application will be locked pending review and approval by your AIO.

After selecting **Sign & Submit to AIO**, the applicant will receive an email asking them to sign the application FacePage electronically using Adobe Sign. Once signed by the PI, the FacePage will then be routed to the AIO contact that is listed on the application for review and signature.

To ensure the application is fully signed and submitted ahead of the Application Deadline for this program, please be sure to complete the application, and begin the Sign & Submit to AIO process in advance of the deadline.

XI. Other Information

Not applicable to this RFA

XII. Contact Information

For technical support and program/content information:

Primary CFF Grants and Contracts contact Angela Minucci at aminucci@cff.org or 301-841-2614

For scientific questions:

Dara Riva, M.S. at driva@cff.org

XIII. Electronic Application Checklist

LOI Submission Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EST)

Full Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EST)

Application must be submitted online at: <https://awards.cff.org>

LETTER OF INTENT

- Biographical Sketch(es) of Key Personnel - (upload)
- Response to Prior LOI Critique (if resubmission) – (upload)
- LOI Project Description - (upload)
- CFF Patient Registry Data Request (if applicable)
- CFF Biorepository Clinical Specimen Request Confirmation letter (if applicable)

FULL APPLICATION

Face Page (upload) which includes:

- Signatures
 - Principal Investigator (Co-PI's are not required to sign)
 - The Official authorized to sign on behalf of the Applicant Institution
- Applicant/PI information - (online)
- Complete Institution and PI Contact information, including correct mailing address - (online)
- Organization Assurances (check those that apply online)
 - Human Subjects Certification - Minimal patient risk only
 - Research Involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules information
 - Research Involving Animals information

Research Plan, Supporting Documents and Appendix:

- Abstracts ~ Summary of Relevance ~ Keywords - (complete online)
- Collaboration Detail (upload, if applicable)
- Research Plan - (upload)
 - Hypothesis and Specific Aims
 - Innovation Statement
 - Background and Significance
 - Preliminary Results
 - Experimental Design and Methods
 - Limitations and Potential Pitfalls
 - Consultants/Collaborative Arrangements
 - Literature Cited (not included in Research Plan page limitation)
- Protocol Synopsis – (upload)
- Critique Response (LOI or resubmission) - (upload, if applicable)
- Budget Detail for each year and for each subcontract, when applicable - (upload)
- Budget Justification for each year and for each subcontract, when applicable - (upload)
- Biographical Sketches of Key Personnel - (upload)
- Other Support for all key personnel (NIH Format) - (upload)
- Facilities Available - (upload)
- Results of Past and Current CFF/CFFT Support – (upload)
- Letters of Reference for Junior Investigators - (invite referees to submit via awards.cff.org –**Note: applicant will not be able to see the letters**)
- Names and Addresses of References for Junior Investigators - (upload)
- Data Safety Monitoring Plan – (upload, if applicable)
- CFF Biorepository Clinical Specimen Request Confirmation letter – (upload, if applicable)
- CFF Patient Registry Data

- Application for CFFPR Data and Confidentiality Agreement – (upload, if applicable)
- Verification of Applicant Institution’s Tax Status - (upload)
 - W-9 (U.S. applicants) or W-8BEN-E (non-U.S. applicants)
 - 501(c)3, IRS Form 147C or equivalent tax status letter
- International Institution Form (non-U.S. based entities only) - (upload, if applicable)
 - Institution’s most recent Mission Statement
 - Institution’s Tax Exemption Letter, if institution is not-for-profit
 - Description of other sources of support
 - Institution’s Standard Operating Procedure(s) or relevant policy to ensure that funds provided are neither distributed to terrorists or their support networks nor used for activities that support terrorism or terrorist organizations
 - For-profit institutions must submit a complete list of key employees, members of the governing board, and/or other senior management
- Appendices - (upload as PDF documents, if applicable)
 - Signed Letter(s) of Support and/or Collaboration
 - Certification of IRB approval, or other applicable organization assurances documents such as IACUC and IBC Approval Letters, if available at the time of application
 - Up to three (3) reprints of the applicant’s work relating to the general area of research in the proposal