

**Questions and Answers and Modifications to RFA #0812240959
Spinal Cord Injury Research Board and the New York State Department of Health**

Richter Center of Research Excellence

NOTE: These questions & answers supersede any previously received written or verbal responses.

Number of Awards

Q1. How many applications do you expect to fund and how many do you expect to receive?

A1. Funding is available to support one Center award (see Section V.B. of the RFA). We anticipate approximately 2-3 applications.

Award Amount

Q2. What are the maximum and minimum award amounts?

A2. The maximum award is \$7.2 million. There is no specified minimum. See Section I.C. of the RFA.

Q3. What is the average award size?

A3. Although one previous Center of Research Excellence was awarded, that award was for a different length of time and amount. Therefore, we cannot provide an "average" award size.

Q4. Will offering matching funds help an applicant in the review process? Does your agency prefer cash or in-kind sources?

A4. Matching funds are not listed as a specific criterion under the Review Criteria (Section V.C. of the RFA); there is no matching fund requirement.

Applicant Conference

Q5. Is attendance at the applicant conference prior to applying mandatory? If so, how does one reserve a seat? Is there a registration fee?

A5. Attendance at the applicant conference is not mandatory, but if you choose to attend, please reserve a seat by calling 518-474-7002. There is no registration fee. Please see instructions in the RFA under section IV.D., Applicant Conference.

Q6. Will minutes of the applicant conference be available online?

A6. No. All questions received in response to this RFA, along with answers, will be posted online on November 4 at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/funding/rfa/0812240959/>. Applicants are strongly urged to view the questions and answers, as well as any updates that might be posted in the event there is a change to the RFA requirements.

MODIFICATIONS TO FAU # 0812240959

Cover Page, Applications Due now reads: February 2, 2010 by 4:00 pm.

Section IV.E., How to File an Application, last paragraph, now reads:

For detailed content requirements, see Section V, Completing the Application.

Applications should be submitted in a single mailing package that is clearly labeled with the FAU number listed on the cover of this RFA document. Inside the mailing package, a separately sealed package should contain the application, CD or DVD and supporting documents clearly marked with the Center Director's name and the institution name.

Hand deliveries will be accepted but should be in a sealed envelope as described in the previous sentence. Applications WILL NOT be accepted via fax or e-mail.

Section V.A., Application Content, third paragraph now reads:

Electronic files must be submitted on a CD or DVD. The CD or DVD should be clearly labeled with the applicant's name and FAU number. The CD or DVD should contain:

- Contractor Forms 1 – 4 in a *single* Microsoft Word (.doc) file;
- Contractor Forms 1 – 4 in a *single* Portable Document Format (.pdf) file;
- Forms 5 – 14 and all appendix material in a *single* .pdf file of not greater than 12MB; and
- Signed Forms 1 (Face Pages for the Contractor and all Subcontractors) in a *single* Portable Document Format (.pdf) file.

Attachment 2, Application Checklist now reads:

ATTACHMENT 2
ATTACHMENT 2 - Application Checklist
Application Checklist

Richter Center of Research Excellence Award

All items are mandatory (Pass/Fail) with the exception of those listed under “Appendices.” Applications that do not include mandatory items will not be reviewed.

- Application was submitted by due date and time
- Institution is a New York State not-for-profit organization or a governmental organization within New York State that is an academic institution, a research organization, a medical center or an entity with demonstrated capability to conduct externally-funded research
- One electronic (on CD or DVD) and one original paper copy of the application
- Combined professional effort of Center Director and Co-Director(s) on the project is at least 20% (see Form 7, ‘% Professional Effort’)

Appendices may include:

- Vendor Responsibility Attestation (Attachment 4)
- Completed Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire
- Required documentation relating to the use of test subjects (human or animal) as described in the instructions to the application forms.
- Letters of collaboration or support; commitment(s) to provide research resources; subcontract letter(s) from consultant(s)
- Memoranda of Understanding, Subcontracts or Contractual Agreements
- Up to two highly relevant publications or manuscripts (published or in press) may be included if essential to document the investigator’s capability to undertake the work proposed
- Facilities and Administrative rate agreements
- Equipment quotes
- Other