Frequently Asked Questions

Updates:
12/17/2024 – FAQ Released along with solicitation
01/16/2025 – FAQ updated and FAQs from the pre-proposal webinar were added

Contents

Application Submission Questions

Q1: I've started the application creation/submission process. How do I find what I started and see where it is in the process?

A1: In order to see applications that you have in process, login to your account. See the "All Applications" drop-down menu for your list of applications.

Q2: How can I verify that my application has been submitted?

A2: Once an application has been submitted, under "All Applications" the application will show a green check mark box that says "Submitted." **Ultimately, it is your responsibility, and not TRISH's, to verify that your application has been officially submitted by the application due date.**

Q3: Do character limits include spaces?

A3: Yes, character limits include spaces.

Q4: Can I request an extension for submitting my application?

A4: Extensions will not be given. It is strongly suggested that you begin your application preparation early and familiarize yourself with the solicitation and TRISH Grant Research Integrated Dashboard (GRID).

Q5: Where do I submit my proposal?

A5: You must submit your proposal via TRISH GRID. This solicitation can be found here: https://spacehealth.bcm.edu/prog/fy25_center_for_space_medicine_space_health_pilot_award_rf

Q6: Can one single Primary Investigator (PI) submit multiple proposals?
A6: There is no limit on the number of proposals submitted as PI or listed as Co-Investigator.

Q7: How many submissions are expected?
A7: TRISH does not provide confidential information regarding the number of proposals submitted.

Q8: Can a link to a video be included in an application?
A8: Yes, a video link can be included in the application. Please note that reviewers are not required to view and/or consider web links in their evaluation of the proposal .

Q9: If the idea submitted would have Intellectual Property (IP) application on Earth, what safety measures does the process have in place to protect the company's IP?
A9: TRISH follows the NASA guidelines regarding intellectual property. Please refer to Section G.4.b copied here: "Institutions awarded TRISH funding must report each invention disclosure or patent application resulting from their TRISH research grant to both TRISH and NASA within 60 days of investigator disclosure to the home institution. Please also refer to the NASA Guidebook for Proposers: (https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc/regulations_and_guidance).

Q10: I just submitted a similar grant to another funding organization. Can I also apply to this solicitation?
A10: TRISH does not restrict the number of submissions for a similar proposal submitted at the same time as to other funding organizations. We recommend that you also check with the other funding organization regarding their guidelines on this matter.

Q11: Do I need to put my proposal in BRAIN prior to submission?
A11: BCM Office of Sponsored Programs has stated that proposals can be entered into BRAIN after award of pilot grants.

Eligibility Questions

Q1: Can anyone submit a proposal?
A1: This solicitation is only open to BCM faculty.

Budget Questions

Q1: Does the $50,000 budget include direct and indirect costs?
A1: No, the $50,000 budget is direct costs only.

Q2: Are there any purchases that are not allowed?
A2: Purchases of equipment over $5,000 will not be permitted.

Q3: Who will administer these grants?
A3: These pilot grants will be administered by CSM.

Q4: In the budget, it is acceptable to give a percent commitment for each key personnel in the project?

A4: Yes, please refer to Budget and Budget Justification section of the solicitation for further instructions.

Q5: Since these are pilot grants can the PI and CO-I's percent effort be 1% or 0%?

A5: Yes, since these are pilot grants it is acceptable for the PI's percent effort to be as low as 1% and CO-I's to have 0% effort.

Q6: Is the $5,000 purchase limit for the total amount of equipment or just for each individual item?

A6: It is for each item, purchases of individual equipment items over $5,000 will not be permitted.

Application Team Member Questions

Q1: Is there a required format for biographical sketches?

A1: A NIH or NSF biosketch format is acceptable, but there is no required format. A template has been provided alongside the solicitation for the proposer's convenience. Regardless of the format used, please take careful note of the 2-page limit for biographical sketches.

Q2: Can a foreign citizen who is part of a U.S. institution/company propose to the solicitation?

A2: Yes. The eligibility requirements of the solicitation apply to the proposing organization (company) and not the individual. However, it is possible that export control requirements must be taken into account for members of a proposing organization who are not U.S. citizens or do not have permanent resident status.

Q3: Do I need to list out the names and credentials of each of the research assistants, administrators, and/or students that will be working on the project?

A3: No, it is not necessary to list the names of all individuals working on the project. The principal investigator and co-investigator(s) should be clearly stated.

General Background Questions

Q1: How can I find more information about the latest spaceflight research results? What about current research?

A1: Please refer to the Evidence Reports found on the NASA's Human Research Roadmap: https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov/Evidence/. Evidence Reports are provided that review the human risks to spaceflight. General research plans are available by reviewing the tasks within the Human Research Roadmap as well.

Lastly, the NASA Task Book also provides a summary of past and current NASA-funded studies going back to 2004 (including TRISH, NSBRI, HRP, and Space Life and Physical Sciences Research and Applications) https://taskbook.nasaprs.com/Publication/welcome.cfm.

Q2: How should I treat export-controlled material in my application?

A2: In general, applicants are advised against including export-controlled material. However, if it is essential to include any export-controlled information in an application, a notice to that effect must be prominently displayed on the first pages of the application and shall state: "The information (data) contained in [insert page numbers or other identification] of this application is (are) subject to U.S. export control laws and regulations. It is furnished to the Government [and TRISH] with the understanding that it will not be exported without the prior approval of the Applicant under the terms of an applicable export license or technical assistance agreement." Note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether any application information is subject to export-control regulations.

Q3: When will the funding decisions, regarding proposals, be made?

A3: Announcement of awards will be made in May 2025.

Q4: I cannot find the answers to my questions in the solicitation documents, the guidebook, or this FAQ. Who can I ask for assistance?

A4: Please ensure that you read both the TRISH solicitation and this FAQ in their entirety before contacting TRISH with questions. For additional information, please see https://trish.my.site.com/s/concierge.

Pre-Proposal Webinar Questions

Q1: What NASA resources would investigators have access to? For example, if a tool has been, or is being developed, would we have access to any of NASA's hardware testing facilities, such as for off-gassing or performance in space? Would it be possible to send test articles on an existing mission, or, for example, are there existing data sets from NASA, such as physical or mental health data from astronauts or similar?

A1: For the pilot projects, access to space is not available. These projects are short-term, and sending something into space takes considerable time, preparation, and evidence, which goes beyond the scope of these grants. However, for other solicitations that TRISH may release, access to space could be a possibility.

In terms of access to astronaut data, proposers can submit a request to NASA's Life Sciences Data Archive (LSDA) or Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health (LSAH). NASA only releases this data when deemed safe, and requests for astronaut data may take a considerable time to be processed. It is unlikely that the data will be available within the timeframe of the one-year project, but you can certainly submit a request, and TRISH would be supportive of it.

The data from the TRISH EXPAND program, which contains commercial spaceflight research data, is expected to be available later in 2025. However, it is uncertain how much data would be relevant to mental health. There is cognitive and alertness data being collected using the Cognition test battery that is done on most government and commercial astronauts. This cognitive data for commercial astronauts is expected to be available in the EXPAND database, but the timeframe is outside of the scope for this solicitation. The Principal Investigator (PI) for this work is Matthias Basner (PI for both the TRISH and NASA projects). As for mental health data, you can certainly review the LSAH and LSDA archives and inquire if they have any relevant data.

Q2: What is the funding period for the pilot projects?

A2: The funding period for pilot projects is up to 12 months. The project can be shorter than 12 months, but 12 months is the maximum allowed. If awarded, the project would likely start around June or July 2025, with the funding period extending until May 2026.

Specific Topic Questions