

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – NY FIRST

What is NY FIRST?

The NY FIRST medical school grant program provides capital funding to encourage recruitment and retention of exceptional life science researchers focused on translational research by supporting the establishment or upgrading of the researchers' laboratories.

How can the grant monies be used?

Grants will be awarded to create new laboratory space or to upgrade existing laboratory space at recipient institutions intending to attract or retain Principal Investigators engaging in translational research to head such laboratories. These funds are to be used for capital expenditures only, including, but not limited to: costs relating to the design, acquisition, construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of laboratory space; the purchase of equipment; and other capital expenses.

What is the maximum amount of funding that will be provided to an individual applicant?

The maximum grant amount for any eligible project is \$1 million.

Must the grantee match the funding in any way?

Grantees are required to provide \$2 in matching funds for every \$1 of NY FIRST program assistance.

Are there any restrictions on how the matching funds are obtained?

Matching funds may consist of cash, including federal assistance, or in-kind services. No financial assistance provided by ESD, or any other New York state agency or authority, may be included as part of the grantee's match.

What is the total amount of funding available for the NY FIRST Program?

The total amount of funding available under the NY FIRST Program is \$15 million.

Who can apply for a grant?

Only medical schools in New York State are eligible to apply for NY FIRST grants.

Are there any restrictions on the area of research undertaken by the recruited scientist?

There are no restrictions in terms of therapeutic area of research. The only requirements are that the research must offer an innovative solution to addressing an unmet clinical need and have a clear path to commercialization and market use.

Can the grant monies be used to upgrade an existing laboratory for a scientist currently on the medical school faculty?

NY FIRST grant monies can be used to upgrade an existing laboratory for a scientist currently on the faculty of a medical school within New York State only if s/he has a bona fide offer from an institution that would lead her/him to leave New York State.

The Guidelines note that the scientific talent recruited to head these laboratories must be employed, or have been recently employed, by an institution or company outside New York State. What is meant by “recently employed”?

“Recently employed” means that the investigator is in the process of transitioning from an institution outside of New York State to an institution within New York State, but has not yet established his/her laboratory.

How many grants will be made during each application cycle?

To the extent practicable, ESD will make awards to as many medical schools as possible within New York State, assuming equivalent qualifying evaluation scores and taking into consideration regional balance, anticipated job creation and retention and economic development benefits. ESD will make no more than one award per Applicant per year.

How many application cycles will there be?

ESD intends to make NY FIRST grant awards through an annual competitive grant solicitation to qualifying Applicants, for up to three years, or until the funds under this program are fully committed.

How will the applications be evaluated?

A review panel of qualified individuals will convene to evaluate each application based on a pre-determined list of criteria.

What is meant by Life Sciences Economic Development Benefits?

Life Sciences Economic Development Benefits refer to the creation, expansion, enhancement or acceleration of life sciences programs throughout the state leading to:

- Commercialization of life sciences
- Creation or retention of jobs in the life sciences industry
- Promotion of the life science ecosystem within a region or regions of the state
- New patents in life science
- Additional commercial laboratory space
- Additional venture capital money for life sciences entities in New York State