



## CLIN2 Awards: Funding Opportunity for Clinical Trials Summary

OVERVIEW				
<b>Objective</b>	To accelerate clinical development of stem cell-based and genetic therapies to late-stage trials by encouraging innovative clinical trial designs, and incentivizing stage-appropriate market access strategies and pre-commercialization activities			
<b>Scope</b>	All activities necessary for completion of a Phase 1, 2, or 3 trial, plus studies to understand mechanism of action and potency assay development, patient support activities, and data sharing activities. May support manufacturing for the next phase trial.			
<b>Program Recurrence</b>	Four times per year			
AWARD DETAILS				
	<b>Stage</b>	<b>First in Human*</b>	<b>Phase 2 or Subsequent**</b>	<b>Phase 3 or Pivotal</b>
<b>Funds</b>	<b>Maximum Award Amount</b>	\$8,000,000 (for-profit) \$12,000,000 (non-profit)	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
<b>Maximum Duration</b>	Up to 4 years			
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS				
<b>Applicant Organization</b>	California or non-California-based for-profit or non-profit organizations may apply			
<b>Applicant PI</b>	Must commit at least 15% effort			
<b>Project Manager</b>	Must commit at least 50% effort			
<b>Co-funding</b>		<b>First in Human*</b>	<b>Phase 2 or Subsequent**</b>	<b>Phase 3 or Pivotal</b>
		30% (for-profit***) None (non-profit)	50% (for-profit***) None (non-profit)	50%
SCHEDULES AND DEADLINES				
<b>Application Due Dates</b>	Four times per year			
<b>GWG Selection</b>	<a href="#">Approximately 60 days after application deadline</a>			
<b>GWG Review</b>	Approximately <a href="#">30 days after GWG Selection</a>			
<b>Award Approval</b>	Approximately <a href="#">60 days after GWG Review</a>			
<b>Start Date</b>	Must be ready to start award activities within 60 days of award approval			

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**CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<https://www.cirm.ca.gov/researchers/funding-opportunities-clinical-trial-stage-research/>

For additional information on the program or applications, contact [clinical@cirm.ca.gov](mailto:clinical@cirm.ca.gov). For questions related to the review and approval of applications, contact [review@cirm.ca.gov](mailto:review@cirm.ca.gov).

**Additional requirements and definitions may be found in [CIRM Funding Opportunities: Common Requirements and Definitions](#), and are incorporated herein by reference.**

\*For this program announcement, a trial is considered First-in-Human if it is the first clinical trial using this therapeutic candidate in the proposed disease indication and using a given route of administration.

\*\*For this program announcement, "Subsequent" trials are any Phase 1 trials following a First-In-Human trial in the proposed disease indication and using a given route of administration. This definition excludes Phase 3 or pivotal Phase 2 trials.

\*\*\*Co-funding requirement also applies to for-profit partners of non-profit applicants.

**Background**

The mission of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) is to accelerate world class science to deliver transformative regenerative medicine treatments in an equitable manner to a diverse California and world.

This opportunity is in support of CIRM's Strategic Allocation Framework (SAF) goals as approved by the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) in September 2024, including the goal to propel 15-20 therapies targeting diseases affecting Californians to late-stage trials and the goal to advance 4-7 rare disease programs to the stage of filing a Biologics License Application (BLA) with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Through the CLIN2 program, CIRM continues to create funding opportunities for the types and stages of clinical research that otherwise do not exist or are of limited scope and focus to advance the field of regenerative medicine. Existing federal funding opportunities for clinical trial stage activities are primarily driven by the internal priorities and interests of the administering body and, therefore, are unpredictable and limited in both scope and focus. The CLIN2 program is a part of CIRM's core product development programs that unlike other funding sources, provide reliable and predictable funding throughout the award period.

**Objective**

The objective of this funding opportunity is to support completion of a Phase 1, 2, or 3 trial (including registrational trials) for an innovative regenerative medicine-based therapy addressing a serious unmet need and with the potential for transformative benefits to patients, families and the health care system. The trial should be part of a clinical development program aiming for marketing approval, and which proposes stage-appropriate pre-commercialization activities, including development of an access and affordability strategy. The clinical development program for the supported trial should demonstrate a commitment to enrolling a patient population reflective of the demographics of the disease population. Further, the clinical development program should leverage CIRM-funded and externally funded infrastructure for data, resource or knowledge sharing to drive rigor, efficiency, and transparency of clinical trial results.

Under this program, CIRM will act not only as a funding agency, but will also devote significant internal resources and leverage its external team of world-class subject matter experts to actively advance the project. The result of a successful application will be the formation of a true partnership that both accelerates the program and gives it the greatest opportunity for success.

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**Program Guiding Principles**

The CLIN2 Program is designed to advance clinical-stage candidates with the potential to deliver transformative therapies for Californians while addressing barriers to access and affordability.

To achieve these objectives, the CLIN2 portfolio will prioritize projects that:

- Offer transformative impact for patients, meaning therapies that provide significant benefits over existing therapies
- Address known barriers to access and affordability\* for stem cell and genetic therapies; and
- Broadly address both prevalent and rare diseases affecting Californians.

CLIN2 Guiding Principles are applied throughout the application lifecycle to ensure the development of a scientifically meritorious portfolio aligned with the Strategic Allocation Framework (SAF) Impact Goals.

**Scope and Structure**

The CLIN2 award supports completion of an interventional Phase 1, 2 or 3 clinical trial for a stem-cell based or genetic therapeutic candidate and may also fund an associated natural-history comparator or lead-in normal healthy volunteer study. Applicants are encouraged to use accelerating trial designs where appropriate, such as basket trials or adaptive design dose-escalation protocols.

**Program activities**

Applicants may request funds to cover costs for research activities conducted wholly in California and may also request costs for research activities conducted outside of California, provided that the Awardee is a California Organization and exercises direction and control over the activities.

CIRM will fund the following activities under this opportunity:

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES	
✓	All clinical operations activities needed to complete the trial according to the proposed timeline
✓	Outreach and inclusion activities to achieve trial enrollment demographics reflecting the patient population
✓	Treatment of patients with the therapeutic candidate (or control) and follow-up visits per the clinical protocol
✓	Sharing of any non-clinical as well as clinical data per the CIRM data sharing requirements
✓	Establishment and regular convening of a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) with clinical development expertise to provide forward-looking strategic advice
✓	Activities associated with managing, preserving, and sharing data and knowledge from the study
ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES	
✓	Natural history studies needed for baseline or control data for the interventional trial
✓	Lead-in studies in normal healthy volunteers for the interventional trial

**Deleted: Program funding areas<sup>¶</sup>**  
The CLIN2 Program aims to advance clinical candidates that have the potential for transformative patient impact and that address barriers to access and affordability.<sup>¶</sup> To support this goal, certain modalities, disease areas and project features may be given preference based on their potential to achieve these goals. These preferences will be informed by funding opportunity performance, award portfolios, the evolving regenerative medicine scientific and regulatory landscape, and other strategic considerations. Each year, CIRM staff will present preference recommendations to the ICOC, which retains sole authority for approval. Once approved, these preferences will be implemented through the CLIN2 pre-review qualification process (described below) and during programmatic considerations by the Application Review Subcommittee of the ICOC.<sup>¶</sup>

\* Refer to [CIRM Access and Affordability Planning Requirements for definitions of key terms, program-specific requirements, and evaluation criteria.](#)

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✓	Studies to develop biomarkers, understand mechanisms of action and develop a potency assay
✓	Regulatory activities including FDA interactions and requests for designations
✓	Non-clinical studies required by the FDA (FDA documentation required)
✓	Strategic planning activities
✓	Manufacturing activities to supply the current clinical trial, including technology transfer and FDA-approved comparability studies, if needed
<b>CONDITIONALLY ALLOWABLE ACTIVITY</b>	
✓	Manufacturing for the next phase trial. Funding of that activity will be conditioned on 1) an interim evaluation by CIRM and a panel of independent experts of the clinical trial data to date, and 2) provision of 50% co-funding for this activity, if co-funding is required as specified in "Award Amount and Duration" below

CIRM will not fund the following activities under this opportunity:

<b>UNALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	
✗	Project costs incurred before the date the ICOC approves the application for funding
✗	Discovery or translational research
✗	Activities already budgeted or paid for under a prior, existing or future CIRM award
✗	The costs of activities performed by a separate out-of-state organization that retains intellectual property or independent publication rights in any intellectual property (e.g., invention, technology, data) arising out of the CIRM-funded project

### Award amount and duration

CLIN2 award amounts vary by trial phase and organization type as described below. The proposed project period must not exceed 48 months from the award start date, expected to be within 60 days of the ICOC approval. During the Project Period, CIRM funds shall only be used for allowable costs and activities.

	FIRST IN HUMAN	PHASE 2 OR SUBSEQUENT	PHASE 3 OR PIVOTAL
<b>Co-funding</b>	30% (for-profit) None (non-profit)	50% (for-profit) None (non-profit)	50%
<b>Max Award (total cost)</b>	\$8,000,000 (for-profit) \$12,000,000 (non-profit)	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000

The amount of total project costs requested must be adequately justified. The requested amount is subject to adjustments prior to issuance of an award based on assessments of the Grants Working Group (GWG), the CIRM team, or by the Application Review Subcommittee (ARS) of the ICOC.

### Provisional timetable

CLIN2 funding opportunities will recur four times per year. The anticipated timeline of each funding cycle is as follows:

**Deleted: Qualification process**  
In cases when the number of applications submitted exceeds the number that can be reasonably reviewed by the GWG panel, CIRM staff will prioritize applications that best align with CIRM's goals and the program funding areas defined above. ¶ Each application will be assigned a score based on pre-defined, objective criteria defined in the Program Announcement. The highest scoring applications that do not exceed the GWG capacity will proceed to GWG review. ¶ If multiple applications receive the same objective score and additional prioritization is necessary, the following process will apply: ¶ GWG members will be asked to score those tied applications (based on a subset of review criteria defined in the Program Announcement) to further distinguish them. ¶ If ties remain after GWG scoring, CIRM staff will make the final selection based on the degree of alignment with the strategic priorities of the CLIN2 program. ¶ All applicants will be notified of the outcome of this qualification process. ¶

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PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE	
<b>Applications Open</b>	Four times per year
<b>Applications Due</b>	Please visit <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a> on the CIRM website for current application deadlines.
<b>Grants Working Group (GWG) Selection</b>	Approximately <a href="#">45</a> days after application deadline
<b>GWG Merit Review</b>	<a href="#">Approximately 45 days after GWG Selection</a>
<b>ARS Award Approval</b>	Approximately 60 days after GWG <a href="#">Merit Review</a>
<b>Award Start</b>	60 days after award approval

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### Grants Working Group Selection

If the number of applications submitted exceeds the volume that can reasonably be reviewed by the GWG panel, the GWG will conduct an initial screening to identify those applications that best align with the CLIN2 program objectives.

Selection for advancement to full panel discussion will be based on:

- [Alignment with the CLIN2 Guiding Principles; and](#)
- [The value proposition review criteria defined in the Program Announcement.](#)

[Applications receiving the highest overall reviewer assessments, consistent with the target number established for GWG Merit Review, will advance to full panel discussion.](#)

[The CIRM President and CEO, upon recommendation from CIRM scientific staff, may advance a limited number of additional applications not selected by the GWG if there is a compelling programmatic justification.](#)

[Reviewers may provide brief comments or categorical assessments at this stage; however, detailed feedback to applicants is not guaranteed.](#)

### Application Review Subcommittee Award Approval

[The CIRM Team will provide analysis and recommendations to support the ARS in making informed funding decisions. These recommendations are intended to build a portfolio of scientifically meritorious projects aligned with the SAF Impact Goals, while maintaining balance across innovative therapeutic approaches, progressions from prior CIRM awards, and a range of disease areas.](#)

[For each relevant application, the CIRM Team will prepare a Guiding Principles summary to assist the ARS in evaluating how the proposal aligns with the CLIN2 Guiding Principles described above.](#)

[The CIRM Team will also submit a formal Funding Recommendation to the ARS that incorporates:](#)

- [Available program budget;](#)
- [GWG score and reviewer comments;](#)
- [The Guiding Principles summary;](#)
- [Prior awardee performance \(if applicable\); and](#)
- [Any material new information available to CIRM following GWG review.](#)

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All the following requirements must be fully satisfied for an application to be accepted and considered for funding by CIRM. Requirements marked with a \* incorporate by reference the requirements and definitions described in **CIRM Funding Opportunities: Common Requirements and Definitions**.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	
1	The applicant must propose an interventional clinical trial for a regenerative medicine-based therapeutic (stem cell-based or genetic therapy*)
2	For projects not progressing from a CIRM preclinical stage award, the IND application and clinical protocol must be cleared by FDA at the time the CIRM application is submitted. For projects progressing from a CIRM preclinical stage or earlier phase clinical trial award, the IND application must have been submitted to FDA by the time of the CLIN2 application and must be cleared to proceed within 30 days of the CLIN2 application submission
3	The PI must commit a minimum of 15% effort and adhere to CIRM's requirements*
4	The project team must include an experienced project manager at 50% effort
5	The project team must include a key person with data management experience
6	The CIRM applicant must be the IND sponsor
7	The applicant must have at least one trial site located in California. California applicants must justify any trial sites outside of California
8	The applicant must be ready to initiate work on the funded project within 60 days of award approval
9	The application must be accurate and complete
10	The applicant must demonstrate the required level of co-funding*
11	For-profit organizations must demonstrate solvency*
12	The applicant must meet CIRM's requirements for "good standing"*

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