CIRM
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Frequently Asked Questions: Application Review Subcommittee (ARS)

Important: All instructions for joining a meeting and submitting public comment are listed on the meeting agenda. Agendas are posted on the CIRM Public Meetings webpage approximately 10 days before each meeting. Please refer to the agenda for the most current and accurate information.

What is public comment?

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public, including applicants, to share their thoughts with the Application Review Subcommittee (ARS). The ARS is comprised of board members who make the final decision on funding applications.

Who can participate in public comment?

Any member of the public, including applicants, may participate.

How do I make a public comment?

You can:

- **Submit written comments** (emails or letters) before the meeting.
- **Make oral comments** during the meeting.

See the section labeled "Public Comment Instructions" on the meeting agenda posted on the CIRM Public Meetings webpage for the most current instructions. Agendas are posted 10 days before the meeting.

What does ARS consider when making funding decisions?

In addition to the Grants Working Group (GWG) recommendation, ARS may consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to:

- Available program budget
- GWG scores and comments
- Programmatic factors (please refer to each program PA or RFA for more information)
- Prior awardee performance
- New information available after GWG review (e.g., updates relevant to the project's feasibility or readiness)

Are there guidelines or restrictions for public comments?

Written comments:

- Include the application number in the subject line and/or body.
- Do **not** include confidential or proprietary information; letters become public documents.

Oral comments:

- We cannot provide specific guidance on what to say.
- You may review transcripts or videos of prior ARS meetings for examples.
- Time limits apply (see below).

What happens to written comments?

They are linked to the agenda on the CIRM website and distributed to board members before the meeting. They are **not read aloud** during the meeting.

What is the deadline for written comments?

Submit as early as possible after the agenda is posted. Letters received less than **48 hours before the meeting** may not be distributed until after the meeting.

How much time do I have for oral comments?

Each speaker typically has **up to 3 minutes**, but this may vary depending on the number of speakers and time remaining.

Can I give my time to someone else?

No. Each member of the public gets an equal amount of time.

How do I join a meeting?

ARS meetings are hybrid (in-person and via Zoom).

- **Phone:** See “Dial-In Information” on the agenda.
- **In-person:** Address is listed near the top of the agenda.
- **YouTube link:** For viewing only. Do not use if you plan to speak.

When will public comment happen during the meeting?

The Chair will invite public comment when the relevant agenda item is discussed. There is also a standalone “Public Comment” item for topics **not related to specific agenda items**.

Will you notify me when my application is up for discussion?

No. It is your responsibility to join the meeting and listen for your agenda item.

How do I know when it's my turn to speak?

A member of the Board Governance team will call on you when it's your turn.

How do I find out when agendas are posted?

Subscribe to our RSS feed on the CIRM Public Meetings page under **"Stay Up to Date on CIRM Public Meetings and Events."**

For questions not addressed in this FAQ

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