

CIRM Funding Opportunities: Common Requirements and Definitions

The requirements and definitions below are incorporated by reference, and as amended from time to time, into CIRM's Concept Plans, Program Announcements (PAs), and Requests for Applications (RFAs). Please see CIRM's [Award Management Policy](#) for additional requirements and definitions.

Eligibility Requirements

(1) Principal Investigator (PI) or Program Director (PD)

Please see CIRM's [Award Management Policy](#) for definition and additional requirements for PIs and PDs.

To be eligible for consideration for CIRM funding, the PI or PD must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be an employee or Consultant of the Applicant and be accountable for the conduct of the proposed project to the Applicant;
- Must be authorized by the Applicant to conduct the research and assume the responsibilities of the PI or PD;
- Must not currently have another Application pending review or approval under the same funding opportunity as the current Application; and
- Must not currently have another Application that is substantially similar or has overlapping activities pending review or approval under any CIRM funding opportunity.

(2) Co-Investigator (Co-I)

For Concept Plans, PAs or RFAs which have a Co-Investigator (Co-I) role, each Co-I on a CIRM Application must satisfy the following requirements to be eligible for consideration for CIRM funding:

- Must be an employee of a California Organization and be accountable for the conduct of the proposed project to their California Organization; and
- Must not currently have another Application that is substantially similar or has overlapping activities pending review or approval under any CIRM funding opportunity.
- Must meet the same institutional qualifications that would be expected of a PI.

(3) Regenerative medicine therapies / Stem cell-based and genetic therapies

The following regenerative medicine-based therapies, also referred to as stem cell-based and genetic therapies, are eligible for CIRM funding:

- A **cell therapy** where human stem or progenitor cells (collectively, "stem cells") either compose the therapy or are used to manufacture the cell therapy.
- Under Proposition 14, "**progenitor cells**" are "multipotent or precursors cells that are partially differentiated but retain the ability to divide and give rise to differentiated cells."

- A **genetic therapy** (i) that targets a human somatic cell for its therapeutic effect, AND (ii) is intended to replace, regenerate, or repair the function of aged, diseased, damaged, or defective cells, tissues, and/or organs.
- CIRM considers “**genetic therapy**” to mean a human therapeutic intervention that: 1) alters the genomic sequence of cells or 2) introduces or directly manipulates nucleic acids (such as mRNAs, antisense oligonucleotides) in cells. The intervention may include strategies to repair a disease-causing gene sequence, remove or inactivate a disease-causing gene, or introduce new or modified nucleic acids that augment the therapeutic potential of the target cells.
- A **small molecule** or **biologic** that acts on or is dependent on endogenous human stem cells for its therapeutic effect, that is dependent on targeting human cancer stem cells for its therapeutic effect, that modifies a stem cell therapy, OR where a human stem cell is necessary to manufacture the therapy (e.g. extracellular vesicles).

(4) Good Standing

Prior to submitting, Applicants must represent and certify that they and/or any Affiliate are in good standing and must disclose any potentially disqualifying events, as follows and as described in the Application. All disclosures below apply to matters arising in any jurisdiction, whether within or outside the United States. Any supporting documentation in a language other than English must be accompanied by a certified English translation:

- A. Investigations:** Disclose any formal investigation, initiated within the five years preceding the date of the Application by a governmental or regulatory body, whether U.S. or non-U.S., involving the Applicant or any Affiliate and relating to:
- Fraud, misrepresentation, or false or misleading securities or banking filings; or
 - Violations of applicable state or federal securities, banking, health and safety, healthcare, or insurance laws or regulations.
- B. Criminal Convictions:** Disclose any criminal conviction within the five years preceding the date of the Application involving the Applicant or any Affiliate, regardless of how the offense is classified under the applicable jurisdiction (including any felony, misdemeanor, or non-U.S. equivalent), relating to:
- Fraud or misrepresentation;
 - Violations of applicable securities, banking, health and safety, healthcare, or insurance laws or regulations; or
 - Conduct as an underwriter, broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, investment adviser, or paid solicitor of purchasers of securities.
- C. Court Orders, Judgments, or Decrees:** Disclose any order, judgment, or decree issued within the five years preceding the date of the Application by a court of competent jurisdiction, including a non-U.S. court, issued within five years preceding the date of Application, that prohibits the Applicant or any Affiliate from:
- Purchasing or selling any security.
 - Engaging in any state or federal securities, banking, health and safety, healthcare, or insurance activities.
 - Acting as an underwriter, broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, investment advisor, or paid solicitor of purchasers of securities.
 - Utilizing intellectual property created with CIRM funds.

D. Current or Pending Litigation: Disclose any ongoing or pending litigation related to the Applicant or Affiliate relating to:

- Fraud or misrepresentation;
- Alleged violations of applicable securities, banking, health and safety, healthcare, or insurance laws or regulations, including equivalent non-U.S. laws or regulations; or
- Conduct as an underwriter, broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, investment advisor, or paid solicitor of purchasers of securities.

E. Final Regulatory Orders: Disclose any final regulatory or administrative order issued within the five years preceding the date of the Application against the Applicant or any Affiliate by a U.S. or non-U.S. governmental or regulatory body, including:

- Securities, banking, or insurance regulators;
- NIH, FDA, HHS, CMS, or equivalent non-U.S. agencies; and
- Federal, state, national, provincial, or other health departments or regulatory authorities.

F. Securities Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) Sanctions: Disclose any suspension or expulsion of the Applicant or any Affiliate from membership in, or suspension or bar of the Applicant or any Affiliate from association with, a member of a securities self-regulatory organization (SRO) or a comparable non-US securities or financial-industry regulatory or membership organization.

G. Denied, Debarred, and Sanctioned Parties: Disclose whether the Applicant, any Affiliate, or any Key Personnel is currently debarred, suspended, excluded, or otherwise prohibited from participating in programs or activities by any U.S. or foreign governmental or funding agency, or who currently appear on any applicable denied-, debarred-, excluded-, or sanctioned-parties list. Such lists include, for example, the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) exclusions list, the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security denied- and restricted-parties lists, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions lists, and comparable EU, UN, or home-jurisdiction lists.

Note: For-Profit Applicants must provide, in the Uploads section of their Application, a certified copy of a Certificate of Good Standing from the jurisdiction in which the Applicant was established. Applicants incorporated outside the United States must provide an equivalent official document from the jurisdiction of incorporation evidencing that the entity is validly existing and in good standing (e.g., a companies-register extract or certificate of registration) dates within 60 days of the date of this CIRM Application. Non-English documents must include a certified English translation, and non-US documents must be authenticated by apostille (Hague Convention) or consular legalization. Where a qualifying document cannot be obtained within 60 days, the Applicant must submit the most recent available document and provide the current certificate as soon as reasonably obtainable.

(5) Solvency

For-Profit Organizations must provide documentation that shows cash on hand or funding from committed sources that will cover the organization's expenses for 180 days from the date of Application submission. These funds must be distinct from, and in addition to, funds for meeting the Co-Funding requirement for the Project Period and funds for the Applicant's financial contingency plan. The determination of solvency will be made at CIRM's sole and absolute discretion.

(6) Co-Funding

Please see CIRM's [Allowable Project Costs and Co-Funding FAQ](#) and [Award Management Policy](#) for additional information on and requirements regarding Co-Funding.

When Co-Funding is required in a concept plan, Co-Funding may come from any funding source arranged by the Applicant but may not include "in-kind" or similar types of support. Applicants must commit at least the percentage of total project costs indicated in the concept and PA or RFA. Documentation demonstrating the commitment of funds to cover the proposed Co-Funding amount must be provided at the time of Application submission (e.g., copy of executed term sheet showing amount of Co-Funding, conditions, and source).

Alternatively, For-Profit Applicants and For-Profit Partners of Non-Profit Applicants may elect to fulfill all or a portion of the minimum Co-Funding requirement through CIRM's warrant-based Co-Funding option. Applicants electing this option may request CIRM funding up to the Award limit and must satisfy the applicable requirements of CIRM's warrant-based Co-Funding option with respect to the portion of the CIRM Award amount that corresponds to the Co-Funding requirement. Please note that Co-Funding is distinct from Matching Funds, for CIRM's definition of and information regarding Matching Funds, please see the relevant Program Announcement and the Award Management Policy linked above.

(7) Key Personnel

Please see the [Award Management Policy](#) for a definition of Key Personnel.

Individuals who do not meet the definition of Key Personnel may be supported with CIRM funds but should not be identified by name in the Application. Such unnamed personnel may be referenced indirectly by their role on the project (e.g., technician). The budget includes a line item for requesting support for unnamed personnel.

Additional Requirements

Acknowledgement of Funder

CIRM Awardees must acknowledge CIRM support of research findings in publications, announcements, presentations, and press releases by the Awardees. An example of an acknowledgement is: "The research was made possible by an Award from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (Award Number _____). The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CIRM or any other

agency of the State of California.” Authority cited: Article XXXV, California Constitution; Section 125290.40(j), Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 125290.30, Health and Safety Code. For further questions about planned media and press releases, please visit our website or contact press@cirm.ca.gov.

Definitions

“Affiliate” means, with respect to an Applicant, any other entity that: (i) is participating in activities set forth within an Application, and (ii) directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, Controls, is Controlled by, or is under common Control with the Applicant. The term “Control” (including the terms “Controlled by” and “under common Control with”) shall mean the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management, policies, or operations of an entity, whether through ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

“Contingency Funds” means a source of non-CIRM funding sufficient to mitigate the risks outlined in the contingency plan. Contingency Expenditures are defined in the [Award Management Policy](#).

“Core Team” refers to the scientific leadership of an Application or Award and is used in the context of collaborative or team-based Applications or Awards such as DISC4. The specific composition and requirements of the Core Team will be described in the specific PA or RFA but generally includes the PI and one (1) or more Co-Investigators.

“Data Project Manager” is an individual who must have a demonstrated record of experience in data handling and is responsible for interfacing with a data management team(s), interfacing with CIRM’s planned data infrastructure, reporting progress on data management and sharing as well as maintaining the integrity of data during ingestion. The Data Project Manager role can be distributed among multiple people and may be fulfilled by other Key Personnel.

“Genetic research” refers to research that alters genomic sequences of cells (edits, removes, or adds DNA sequences) or introduces or directly manipulates nucleic acids (such as coding and non-coding RNAs, antisense oligonucleotides) in human cells.

“Warrant” means a financial security that entitles the holder to purchase a certain number of stock shares from an issuing company. The Warrant is intended to provide CIRM with a limited opportunity to participate in the future success of companies that receive the benefit of CIRM’s waiver of the applicable Co-Funding requirement. In exchange for waiving a portion of the required Co-Funding, CIRM receives a Warrant that allows it to share in a portion of the company’s future value if the technology is ultimately successful. The Warrant is a standardized component of CIRM’s Co-Funding program and is intended to balance CIRM’s stewardship of public funds with the need to preserve companies’ ability to raise private capital and continue developing promising therapies.

For more information on Warrants, please reference CIRM’s Allowable Project Costs and Co-Funding FAQs.

Version History

DATE	REVISIONS
06.12.2025	- Added references to additional policies and resource documents throughout - Clarified definition of “regenerative medicine therapies / stem cell-based and genetic therapies” - Minor revisions to definitions, including capitalization and sentence structure, to mirror definitions included in other policy documents.
10.01.2026	- Updated references to policies to reflect newly approved AMP regulation - Removed duplicative definitions contained in newly approved AMP regulation - Minor revisions to definitions, including capitalization and sentence structure