



Memorandum

To: Chairman Thomas and Members of the ICOC
From: Sean Turbeville, Ph.D., Vice President – Medical Affairs and Policy
Re: Revisions to PSP Concept Plan
Date: March 28, 2023

Background

The Board approved the concept plan for CIRM's Patient Support Program (PSP) on September 29, 2022. For the reasons below, the CIRM team proposes to revise the Patient Support Program Concept Plan from a Request for Proposal (RFP) to a Request for Application.

Proposed Revisions

The September 29th Patient Support Concept Plan was drafted for a Request for Proposal (RFP) mechanism, which is used by CIRM for contracting with a variety of vendors. A RFP outlines the bidding process, the scope of the project, and the contract terms. At the time, CIRM considered the RFP mechanism as a simple and fast procedure for accomplishing CIRM's goals of selecting a Patient Support Program provider and launching the Patient Assistance Fund.

CIRM now proposes that the Patient Support Concept Plan be revised to a Request for Application (RFA) similar to CIRM's existing grant process. The RFA process is used by CIRM to solicit grants applications to accomplish specific program objectives. CIRM has a well-established existing grant review process which has been used for a number of infrastructure programs, such as Facilities, Shared Labs, the Translating Center and the Alpha Stem Cell Clinics. Not only will the RFA encompass CIRM's goals for evaluating the feasibility of the bids submitted with outside expertise, it will also allow flexibility in awarding and financing the PSP award. In addition, all CIRM applications and awards are maintained within the Grants Management System (GMS) so the PSP grant applications and award will also be maintained in accordance with all other CIRM awards.

Requested Action: CIRM requests the Board approve the proposed revisions to the Patient Support Concept Plan from RFP to an RFA.