

# SCRA Academic Programs Maturation Fund Matching Grant

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Notice of Solicitation for Maturation Fund Matching Grant applications

Also see the companion Notice of Solicitation for the Prototyping Matching Grant

## **AWARD TYPE:**

Grant

## **PARAMETERS:**

Up to \$15,000 per award, inclusive of 20% indirect costs (if applicable)

Up to \$30,000 in awards per institution

## **SUBMISSION PERIOD:**

February 1st, 2019 to April 30th, 2019

Applications may be submitted beginning February 1, 2019. The deadline for receipt of applications under this Solicitation is April 30th, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT. No applications or supplemental materials submitted in response to this solicitation will be accepted after the deadline.

## **PERFORMANCE PERIOD:**

Not to exceed 12 months

## **BACKGROUND:**

SCRA fuels South Carolina's innovation economy by accelerating technology-enabled growth in research, academia, entrepreneurship and industry. SCRA works directly with academic institutions and affiliated startups - creating partnerships to advance research capabilities and commercialize technology. In addition to the Maturation Fund Matching Grant, the SCRA Academic Programs division awards grant funding through the Prototyping Matching Grant, Academic Startup Assistance Program, SBIR/STTR Matching Grant Program, and the SCRA-Academia Collaboration Team (SACT) Grants. SCRA focuses on three sectors: Advanced Materials/Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology and Life Sciences.

## **SCOPE:**

SCRA Academic Programs is providing a total of up to \$100,000 in matching grant funds to South Carolina's institutions of higher education to expand the impact of institutional funds directly invested in the maturation of a technology based on intellectual property owned by the institution.

Each institution may request up to \$30,000 in funding in FY19 (not to exceed \$15,000 in funding per application), exclusive of requests for prototyping funding. See the Notice of Solicitation for the Prototyping Matching Grant for funding requests related to prototyping.

Regarding applications with inventors from multiple institutions, such requests will count on a pro-rata basis towards each institution's \$30,000 cap.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Submissions must come from a technology transfer office or the most senior research administrator (e.g. Vice President of Research) if the institution does not have a technology transfer office. Applicants must be a South Carolina institution of higher education, including research universities, comprehensive teaching universities and colleges, and technical colleges. Requests for funding must be matched by funds from the applicant institution's maturation fund or other direct institutional dollars. The matching funds

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must have been dispersed within the past three years (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019). Federal funding, in-kind matches, and patent expenses are not eligible as maturation matching funds.

The applicant must have exclusive rights to license all inventors' interests in the existing or potential intellectual property associated with the project. Technologies may involve inventors at multiple South Carolina institutions. Projects must fit within one or more of SCRA's industry verticals: Life Sciences, Information Technology, and Advanced Materials/Advanced Manufacturing.

SCRA will require evidence of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval for any proposals describing the use of laboratory animals, or Institutional Review Board approval for any proposals describing research involving human subjects.

### SELECTION PROCESS AND DATES:

For projects that have been previously vetted through an institution's maturation fund review process, requests for funding will consist of a brief application (Appendix A), a simplified budget (covering line items for personnel, supplies and materials, external contractors/consultants, and indirect costs not to exceed 20% of the direct costs), and the application as it was submitted and approved through the institution's maturation fund. For projects from institutions that do not have a formal maturation fund, please contact Paul Dudley at [academicprograms@scra.org](mailto:academicprograms@scra.org).

Institutions are responsible for the technical review and prioritization of applications from their institution. Eligible applications from all institutions will be funded in the order in which they are received, starting February 1, until the full \$100,000 has been awarded. Therefore, to maximize the likelihood of receiving an award, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible before the funds are awarded to other institutions. SCRA Academic Programs will review applications for compliance/eligibility and provide notice of award to the applicant institution within 30 business days.

Applicants are encouraged to work with contractors and consultants within South Carolina. SCRA will assist with locating South Carolina-based providers, if requested.

Please submit applications to Paul Dudley ([academicprograms@scra.org](mailto:academicprograms@scra.org)), Program Manager, by April 30, 2019.

### AWARD START DATE

The award start date will be determined by the date the contract is executed by SCRA and the lead Principal Investigator's (PI) institution, but no later than June 30, 2019. Subawards will flow down from the lead PI's institution.

### USE OF FUNDS

Maturation Fund Matching Grants are designed to augment institutional funds and expand the development of technologies based on intellectual property from South Carolina's academic institutions. All funds will be distributed under the terms of a grant agreement upon the approval of the Maturation Fund Matching Grant.

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### AWARDEE INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS

Awardee institutions must provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure for the research and accept the conditions of the award. Institutions must assure compliance with the prevailing national guidelines for animal and human studies and provide proper oversight of the grant funds.

Awardee institutions must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities by reviewing proposed activities through an Institutional Review Board (IRB) as specified by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protections, HHS OHRP](#). Additionally, the grantee's institution must assure appropriate governance of animal studies. If the research involves either animal or human subjects, IRB approval and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee numbers are not required at the time of application submission but must be provided for final signature of the grant agreement.

Additionally, awardee institutions must adhere to current federal and state regulations, including those regarding financial conflict of interest and research misconduct.

### CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Confidentiality is important to SCRA, therefore please do not include confidential information in grant applications. The abstract, applicant's name, and institutional affiliation for awarded applications may be used by SCRA for promotional and marketing purposes at SCRA's sole discretion. Any potential promotion and marketing will be coordinated with the Principal Investigator.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GUIDELINES

SCRA does not claim any rights whatsoever to patents, copyrights, trademarks or any other intellectual property (IP) created as a result of work sponsored under this grant.

On all aspects of IP, PIs are encouraged to confer with their technology transfer office or equivalent office for guidance.

Awardees should take measures to ensure protection of any IP in accordance with federal and institutional requirements.

### SCIENTIFIC REPORTING & REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Awardees are required to provide a final report within thirty (30) days of the end of the performance period. The report will include the results from the project, milestones achieved, publications resulting from the project, new IP generated during the project, plans for pursuing follow-on funding (both academic and attributable to a startup), new collaborations (both commercial and academic), new startups and jobs that have resulted from the project.

All publications resulting from the performance of the funded project shall acknowledge SCRA as a funding source. SCRA will continue to follow longitudinal progress of the technology and reserves the rights to request brief annual progress reports for 3 years after project closing.

### CHANGES TO PROJECT SCOPE

A significant change in the project scope of work should be discussed with the SCRA Director of Academic Programs and approved in writing or by email by the Director.

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### HOW TO APPLY

Combine the application and any attachments into one PDF file and email to [academicprograms@scra.org](mailto:academicprograms@scra.org).

### COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SCRA will manage the grant contracting process, assure compliance with this Notice of Solicitation, and be responsible for all administrative matters.

These awards are funded by SCRA and are not funded with state or federal dollars.

The lead PI and his or her institution are solely responsible for execution of the project, including compliance with all relevant federal and state laws and guidelines. The awards will be made via contract between SCRA and the lead PI's institution. Subawards will be the responsibility of the lead PI's institution.

SCRA reserves the right to refine and amend policies, as required.

If there are any questions regarding this Request for Applications, please send them to Paul Dudley at [academicprograms@scra.org](mailto:academicprograms@scra.org).

# SCRA Academic Programs Maturation Fund Matching Grant

## Appendix A

### **Application**

Abstract:

Use of Proceeds:

Milestones (including timing):

Status of Current Intellectual Property (including list of inventors and their institutional affiliation):

Budget (personnel, supplies and materials, external contractors/consultants, and indirect costs not to exceed 20% of the direct costs):

Budget Justification:

Performance Period:

Maturation Funds provided by institution (amount and funding type):

Please also submit the full application as submitted to the institution's maturation fund.