

Competitive Capital Program Solicitation 2019

1. Summary

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (“MLSC”), in line with its mission to support life sciences innovation, R&D, commercialization, and workforce development is pleased to issue this Solicitation for interested parties to apply to the 2019 Competitive Capital Program. In this sixth round, the goal of the call is to provide infrastructure funding to encourage innovation in all aspects of the life sciences ecosystem.

Non-profit partners (“Applicant”) are eligible to apply for grant funding to cover capital expenses for the proposed project provided that they demonstrate how they intend to leverage the impact of the MLSC investment by expanding employment opportunities, enabling research and development, stimulating training and workforce development, promoting manufacturing and commercialization, and accelerating innovation throughout Massachusetts. There is no limitation on the number of proposals that may be submitted by each non-profit institution.

Projects will be evaluated based on the level of collaborations and partnerships the Applicant has built with academic/research and industry colleagues; the capacity to train, create and retain jobs that meet market demands; evidence of the availability of funds and in-kind contributions from other sources; and the capacity of the Applicant to implement and sustain the project. Organizations that have been designated for capital funding in Chapter 112 of the Acts of 2018 (*An Act Providing Continued Investment in the Life Sciences Industry in the Commonwealth*) will *not* be eligible to apply to this Solicitation.

Certain applicants may be invited to present their project proposal to a judging panel, which may include members of the MLSC’s Investment Committee, Scientific Advisory Board, and/or a peer review panel. Final recommendations on Awardees will be brought to MLSC’s Board of Directors for approval.

Applications to the competition are **due no later than Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. EST** via an online submission.

2. Who We Are

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research and development, commercialization, education and workforce development. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and wellbeing. The MLSC offers the nation’s most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeting the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information, visit www.masslifesciences.com.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be non-profit institutions, including research institutions, academic medical centers, incubators, accelerators, colleges and universities, and workforce development organizations.

Entities NOT eligible to apply:

- Organizations that are exclusively healthcare providers or are requesting funding to support allied health
 - For-profit companies or other for-profit entities
 - Municipalities or other governmental entities
 - Organizations that have been designated for capital funding in Chapter 112 of the Acts of 2018 (*An Act Providing Continued Investment in the Life Sciences Industry in the Commonwealth*)
- Each application must be authorized by a senior leader of the applying institution (e.g., President, CEO, Executive Director, etc.).
 - Applicants must request funding to support the *life sciences* infrastructure defined as:
Advanced and applied sciences that expand the understanding of human physiology and have the potential to lead to medical advances or therapeutic applications including, but not limited to, agricultural biotechnology, biogenerics, bioinformatics, biomedical engineering, biopharmaceuticals, biotechnology, chemical synthesis, chemistry technology, diagnostics, genomics, image analysis, marine biology, marine technology, medical devices, nanotechnology, natural product pharmaceuticals proteomics, regenerative medicine, RNA interference, stem cell research and veterinary science.
 - Project requests from research institutions, academic medical centers, incubators, and accelerators must not exceed \$5 million per project. Project requests from colleges and universities that are *not* research institutions in the life sciences or workforce development organizations must not exceed \$500,000 per project. **The requested funds can only be used to support capital costs (e.g. lab renovations, equipment, supplies) at the MA non-profit institution.**
 - Projects will be evaluated, in part, based on the level of support and funds already identified and raised by the Applicant for the project. In general, the more MLSC dollars are being leveraged by other funding, the stronger the application.
 - The Applicant must be in compliance with all other MLSC agreements, if any.

4. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in determining the competitiveness/strength of an application. General criteria apply to all Applicants with additional Applicant-specific criteria following:

- General Criteria
 - Capacity of project to create and/or retain jobs in Massachusetts
 - Contributions to the Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem and its culture of innovation
 - Promotion of significant economic development in Massachusetts
 - Potential for MLSC's funds to make a difference and availability of funds from other sources
 - Capacity of Applicant to implement and sustain the project

- Criteria for Research Institutions/Academic Medical Centers
 - Potential for investment to enable scientific advances and accelerate effective treatment
 - Potential to succeed and innovate in addressing challenges faced by the specialty
 - Capability of team to execute on, and sustain, the project
 - Likelihood of Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem to benefit from the investment
 - Effectiveness and robustness of partnerships
 - Potential to contribute to workforce development through training and the creation of jobs
 - Potential to fill a gap, or accelerate growth, in the Massachusetts research ecosystem

- Criteria for Incubators/Accelerators
 - Potential for investment to provide value and development opportunities to emerging companies
 - Potential to fill a gap, or accelerate growth, in a particular sub-cluster of the life sciences in a particular region of the Commonwealth
 - Demonstration of market demand for such incubator/accelerator resources and how such resource differentiates itself from existing resources
 - Qualifications, experience and expertise of Applicant to create, manage and sustain an incubator/accelerator

- Criteria for Non-Research Colleges and Universities/Workforce Development Organizations
 - Potential for training program to benefit students who are under-represented in the life sciences or economically disadvantaged
 - Potential to fill a gap in, or accelerate, the development of skills in demand by industry in the region in which Applicant is located; and a demonstration that such skills are not already provided by another institution within the Applicant's region
 - Demonstration that Applicant has dedicated and effective resources to provide career development services to students including providing students with access to career awareness

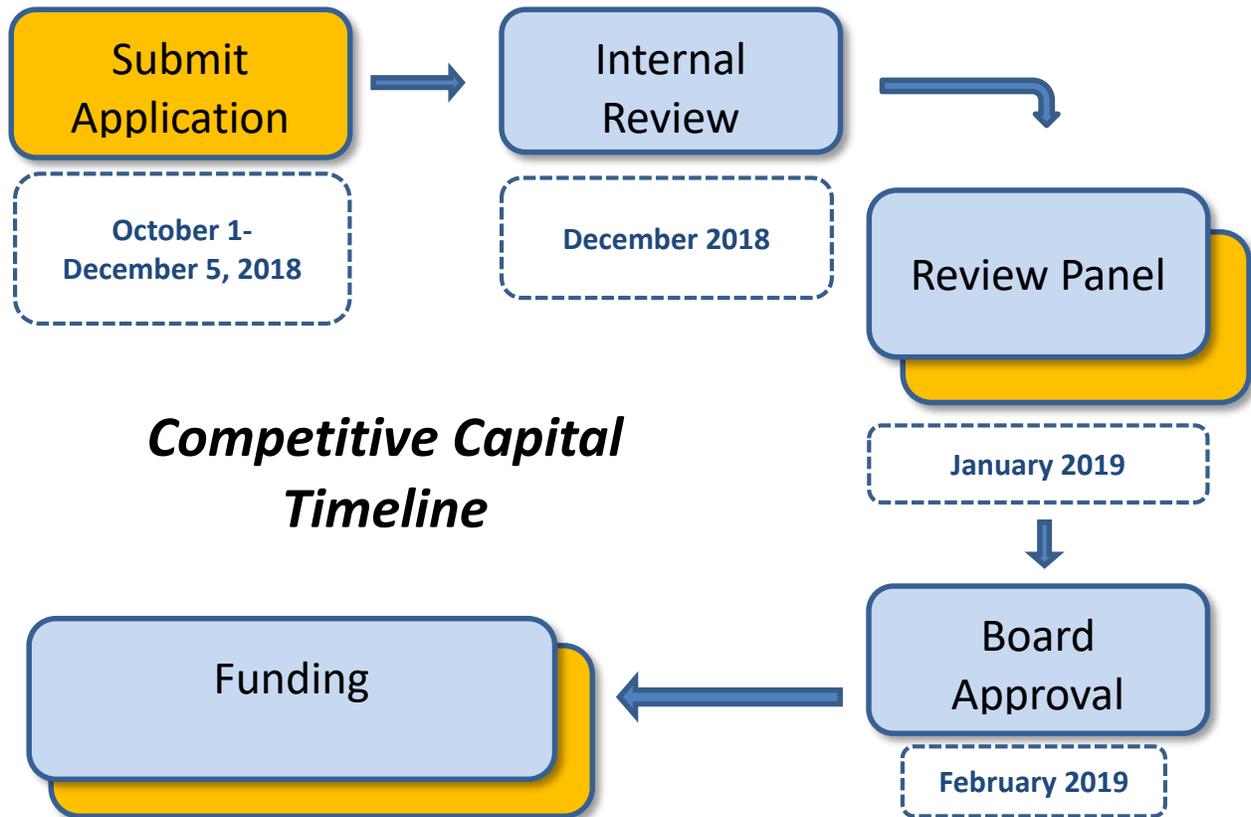
activities and documenting the number of internship placements in the life sciences, connections to life science industry partners, and evidence of job placements in the life sciences upon graduation

- Demonstration that Applicant’s training program is a result of input and advice provided by life science industry professionals

5. Program Process

The MLSC has full discretion and authority to determine (1) which Applicants, if any, are entitled to receive awards under the program and (2) the amounts of any such awards. Submission of an application does not guarantee the award or receipt of any award or other benefit under the program. The MLSC reserves the right to close the call for applications at any time.

In the following Figure, we highlight the overall process by which the applications are submitted, evaluated and the decisions are communicated. Note that the yellow shaded boxes focus on the Applicant’s activities and the blue shaded boxes represent the activities of the MLSC.



Application

- Applications will be accepted through December 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. EST via an online application at <http://www.masslifesciences.com/programs/capital>.
- Institutions may submit multiple applications provided that each application is authorized by a senior leader.

Evaluation and Awards

- An initial screening of each application will be conducted by the MLSC's staff. The MLSC reserves the right to ask the Applicant to provide more information or clarification at any stage of the process.
- Members of a review panel, the MLSC's Scientific Advisory Board, and MLSC's Investment Committee comprised of Board members may be assigned applications to evaluate based on their expertise.
- Upon invitation, an Applicant may be requested to meet with the review panel to present their project proposal and address questions or provide clarification. The MLSC will notify such Applicants in advance and provide additional instructions.
- The review panel will recommend awardees to the MLSC's Board of Directors at the February 2019 Board Meeting.

6. Application

Applications will be submitted via an online portal. Applications will contain the following information:

Organization Overview: Applicants will provide an overview of their organization and the available resources for this project including other funds, equipment, personnel and resources available to support the proposed project.

Proposal to the MLSC: Applicants will explain the proposed use of funds and expected outcome of the investment including how the proposal meets the general criteria and the specific criteria relevant to the Applicant as set forth in Section 4 above.

7. Funding

- **Allowable costs for MLSC funds include:** lab renovation and construction, lab furniture/appliances, software and technology, equipment and research supplies (no minimum dollar amount). Non-fundable expenses include: direct labor, legal expenses, travel, paying off debt, paying board members, paying for operating costs such as rent and utilities, and activities funded by other funding sources.

- After the MLSC's Board of Directors confirms Awardees, Awardees will be expected to enter into a Grant Agreement (the "Agreement") with the MLSC that contains certain standard provisions within 30 days. The MLSC reserves the right to amend the standard form of Agreement at any time without reissuing this Solicitation. The MLSC will not seek to procure any intellectual property rights in the Agreement.
- Following execution of the Agreement, funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis to the Awardees.
- The number and amount of awards will be determined by the quality of the proposals.
- \$30 million has been allocated for the 2019 Program to be applied to projects in FY2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) and FY2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Funding up to \$5,000,000 may be requested from research institutions, academic medical centers and incubators/accelerators. In general, funding up to \$500,000 may be requested from non-research colleges and universities and workforce development organizations. The MLSC may consider requests greater than \$500,000 from non-research colleges and universities and workforce development organizations in the event of a very compelling and highly competitive application.
- **The MLSC reserves the right to adjust the requested amount of funding for each proposal.**

8. Deliverables

Awardees are required to submit the following materials to the MLSC:

Semi-Annual Progress Reports - will be submitted by all Awardees every six months during the award period, with receipt of a Comprehensive Final Project and Financial Report within six (6) months of substantial completion of the project. These reports should describe progress made using the grant, as well as other metrics related to the specific project. Templates will be provided to awardees upon execution of the Agreement.

Post Project Annual Reports - will be submitted by all Awardees for three years following submittal of the Comprehensive Final Project and Financial Report and should describe the progress of the Awardee towards the outcomes anticipated for the proposal. Templates will be provided to awardees upon execution of the Agreement.

9. Confidentiality

MLSC is subject to the requirements concerning disclosure of public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Act, M.G.L. c. 66 (Public Records Act), which governs the retention, disposition and archiving of public records, such as written materials, financial statements, statistical tabulations and other documentary materials or data. As a result, applicants should be aware that any information submitted to MLSC is subject to public disclosure as set forth in the Public Records Act.

There are, however, exceptions. "Public records" do not, for example, include documents containing trade secrets, such as commercial or financial information regarding the operation of any business conducted by a company or other institution or regarding the competitive position of a company or other institution in a particular field. In the event that an applicant wishes to submit certain documents to MLSC and believes such a document or documents may be proprietary in nature, the applicant should identify such materials in its application as Confidential. MLSC's General Counsel is the sole authority within MLSC for making determinations on the applicability and/or assertion of an exemption to the Public Records Act. All documents submitted by the applicant, whether designated as "Confidential Information" or not, are not returnable.

10. General Conditions

Contractual Requirements

The MLSC intends to enter into an Agreement with the Awardees containing certain standard provisions. The MLSC reserves the right to amend the Agreement without further issuance of another solicitation. Please be advised that this standard Agreement must be executed in substantially the form provided and the terms and conditions therein are non-negotiable.

Waiver Authority

The MLSC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor irregularities in submittal requirements, to request modifications of the application, to accept or reject any or all applications received, and/or to cancel all or part of this solicitation at any time prior to awards.

Disclaimer

This solicitation does not commit the MLSC to award any funds, pay any costs incurred in preparing an application, or procure or contract for services or supplies. The MLSC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified Applicants, cancel or modify the solicitation in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines, when it is in its best interests. An application does not constitute an award.

Changes/Amendments to Solicitation

This solicitation has been distributed electronically using the MLSC's website. It is the responsibility of Applicants to check the MLSC's website for any addenda or modifications to the Solicitation to which they intend to respond. The MLSC, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and its subdivisions accept no liability and will provide no accommodation to Applicants who submit an application based on an out-of-date solicitation document.

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