



Request for Application (RFA) 2024

Funding Opportunity Purpose

This notice announces a new funding opportunity from Respiratory Health Association (RHA) to support research projects to improve our understanding of lung health and lead to improvements in treating and curing Lung Cancer.

Available Awards

1. RHA2024-01-LC: up to \$100,000 1-year Lung Cancer grant

Key Dates

Application Due	March 15, 2024
Award Announcement	On or about June 1, 2024
Award Project Period	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

Background

This Request for Applications (RFA) encourages grant applications from investigators interested in conducting innovative research studies in lung cancer. Early-Stage Investigators ([as defined by NIH](#)) are encouraged to apply, but all investigators are eligible.

Respiratory Health Association will award a one-time sum as part of this research initiative. Research across the full translational research spectrum are eligible (from basic science to translational into community settings). The over-arching goal of this award is to catalyze pilot and feasibility studies with the goal of generating preliminary data that may be used to successfully compete for federally funded research grants that ultimately leads to a reduction in the public health burden of lung cancer.

Applicant Eligibility

To be considered for a grant, applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

- The applicant is a full-time Post-Doctoral Fellow at a Public or Private Institution of Higher Education WITH a Faculty mentor at the same institution. The Faculty mentor is required to have a R01-level or equivalent funding from an external sponsor (e.g., National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Foundation); OR the applicant is a Faculty member at Public or Private Institution of Higher Education; AND,

- The applicant must be a United States citizen or United States resident.

Additional Information on Eligibility

- Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for RHA support.
- Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
- RHA does not support or provide research funding to institutions that accept any form of tobacco industry support. Applicants with current or past relationships with tobacco industry organizations must disclose this upon submission of application.
- This grant is open to applicants nationwide.

Submission Guidelines

Page limitations and formatting requirements: The research plan and strategy should not exceed more than six pages (11-point font size or larger; no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including spaces); and, no more than 6 lines per vertical inch. The lay summary (no more than ½ page), biosketch, and budget justification may be attached as additional pages in your submission. Use paper (page) size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11"). Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") - top, bottom, left, and right - for all pages.

The application should include the following sections:

1. Cover Page: Please complete and include the RHA cover page in your application. The cover page template can be found on the last page of the RFA.
2. Lay Summary: Application should include an explanation of the intended study described in lay terms which are easily understood by a non-scientific/non-academic public health audience. This lay summary should be no more than 250 words in length.
3. Research Plan (6-page limit):
 - a. Specific Aims (1-page limit):
 - i. State the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
 - ii. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
 - b. Research Strategy (5-page limit):
 - i. Significance

1. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
 2. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
 3. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
- ii. Innovation
1. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
 2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
 3. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- iii. Approach
1. Explain how the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses are well-reasoned and appropriate for accomplishing the specific aims of the project.
 2. Explain how the strategies ensure a robust and unbiased approach in alignment with the proposed work. Additionally, provide definitions and descriptions of potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success.
 3. Explain, if the project is in the early stages of development, how the strategy will establish feasibility and manage particularly risky aspects.
 4. Describe the plan to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, in studies involving vertebrate animals or human subjects.
 5. Describe the plan for inclusion of minorities, members of both sexes/genders and children in patient-oriented research projects. Ensure that this plan is justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed.
- iv. Environment
1. Explain how the scientific environment in which the work will be done contributes to the probability of success.
 2. Explain whether institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators are adequate for the proposed project.
 3. Describe how the project will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements.

4. Describe the plan for the Protection of human subjects from research risks, if patient-oriented research is proposed (no page limit).
5. Biosketch of all Senior/Key Personnel Profile: Please submit biosketches for all key personnel in current NIH Format (no more than 5 pages per biosketch).
6. Budget: A budget spreadsheet along with narrative of budget justification is required for this project which includes percent effort for key personnel and details all other expenses. **Please note per RHA policy the award does not support indirect costs.** You may use the template included which can be found on the RHA [Funding Opportunities page](#). No page limit.
7. Letter of institutional endorsement is a requirement for the submission of the research grant proposal and must align with the policies of the respective institution. Up to 2 pages.

Applications must be submitted electronically by **5:00PM (CST) on March 15, 2024** to Rachael Morkunas, MPH at rmorkunas@resphealth.org. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Application Review Information

Overall Impact: Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project (or subsequent studies based on the results of the proposed project) to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Scored Review Criteria: Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s): Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early-Stage Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?



Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects? If the project involves patient-oriented research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Submission

Letter of Intent: Although a Letter of Intent is not required, is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows the RHA staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review. The Letter of Intent should include the following information:

- Descriptive title of proposed activity
- Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
- Names of other key personnel
- Participating institution(s)
- Number and title of this funding opportunity

Letters should be emailed to rmorkunas@resphealth.org.

Application: Applications must be submitted electronically by **5:00PM (CST)** on **March 15, 2024**, to rmorkunas@resphealth.org. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact:

Rachael Morkunas, MPH
Senior Program Manager
Respiratory Health Association
Email: rmorkunas@resphealth.org
Telephone: (312) 628-0233



RHA Research Award Application Cover Page

Name of Investigator: _____

Project Title: _____

Investigator Email and Phone: _____

Institutional Affiliation (if applicable): _____