



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CPRIT Review Cycles for Fiscal Years 2020 – 2021

The effects of COVID-19 work stoppages and the dramatic downturn in the petroleum industry will have an enormous impact on the Texas economy and state revenues. In anticipation of instructions from state leadership to decrease significantly fiscal years 2020 and 2021 appropriated budgets, CPRIT is making tough decisions now regarding upcoming award cycles.

To the extent possible, this plan balances the State's vested commitment to supporting innovative cancer research and prevention projects – ratified most recently by Texas voters in November 2019 - while also recognizing the current economic situation. It provides CPRIT up to eight more months to put in place an award cycle for fiscal year 2021, maintaining the maximum amount of flexibility to ramp up grant awards if the economy rebounds quickly. CPRIT continues to monitor the unfolding economic effects of COVID-19 and may further modify the plan in accordance with state leadership and legislative instructions. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Second Cycle of Fiscal Year 2020 Awards

The peer review of 195 academic research, product development research, and prevention grant applications for the second cycle of fiscal year 2020 will move forward. Assigned primary reviewers have completed their initial comprehensive review and scoring/critiques of the applications. CPRIT will convene the peer review panels via videoconference in April and May to evaluate the applications. CPRIT will present the award recommendations to the Oversight Committee for approval at the August meeting or at a meeting after September 1, 2020 (the start of fiscal year 2021.)

This plan allows CPRIT some budget flexibility, while also recognizing the work that the grant applicants and expert reviewers have already invested in preparing and evaluating the 195 applications under review.

First Cycle of Fiscal Year 2021 Awards

On April 1, CPRIT notified current grantee institutions through CPRIT's list serve and the COVID-19 FAQs posted on CPRIT's website that CPRIT has suspended the first cycle of fiscal year 2021 awards for the Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention Programs. CPRIT has withdrawn the Academic Research Program RFAs released in January and returned the application already submitted.

Taking this action now minimizes CPRIT's fiscal year 2021 budget commitments and preserves our options as we learn about near term economic effects. CPRIT is committed to releasing applications for new awards in fiscal year 2021 if circumstances support doing so.

CPRIT is considering a process to provide bridge funding for current Research Training Award grantees to extend the already approved training programs for an additional year until CPRIT releases a new Research Training RFA (originally scheduled for the first cycle of fiscal year 2021.) The bridge funding process will include Scientific Review Council consideration of the grantee's progress report and recommendation for Oversight Committee approval. Bridge funding may also be necessary for some current Prevention Program grantees to maintain essential cancer screening services.

Recruitment Awards Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021

CPRIT will continue to review and recommend recruitment applications submitted through June 20 (the final deadline for fiscal year 2020 recruitment nomination submissions.) CPRIT plans to recommend recruitment applications for Oversight Committee consideration at the May and August open meetings.

CPRIT will structure the recruitment RFAs for fiscal year 2021 based on the agency's reduced spending plan.

Prevention Dissemination Awards Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021

On April 1, Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid notified Prevent Program grantees that CPRIT has closed the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Initiatives RFA for the rest of fiscal year 2020. CPRIT withdrew the Dissemination RFA already released.

CPRIT will structure the Dissemination RFA for fiscal year 2021 based on the agency's reduced spending plan.