



Call for Research Proposals – Fundmyresearch.org

Fundmyresearch.org is seeking research grant proposals for posting on its website, www.fundmyresearch.org.

The Mission and Objectives of Fundmyresearch.org:

Fundmyresearch.org (FMR), a Houston, Texas based non-profit organization, seeks to engage the general public in the research process through a new and unique mechanism for funding scientific research. FMR is a system of public on-line donations (micro-grants) that can provide significant funding for scientific researchers anywhere in the world. FMR presents a radical paradigm shift in the way research is prioritized and funded by allowing the world community to have access to researchers and to participate directly in funding scientific research they are personally passionate about.

Growth of FMR will be organic. FMR has no existing source of income at present except for the founders' donations. Presently, all funds donated to FMR for specific projects posted on the website will go directly to the researchers to complete the project outlined in the proposal. At a later point in time and as a separate endeavor, FMR will seek grant funding and donations for administrative support. All researchers and donors matched by FMR can rest assured that the dollars devoted to the research described will reach the researcher and their institution in accordance with FMR's posted policies.

FMR does not fund any type of "for-profit" endeavors, start-up companies, and does not make loans.

How it works:

Proposals are submitted in electronic format (pdf) by researchers to FMR. The premise of FMR is that the general public, when given the information and the opportunity, will participate with scientists in the research process by making small "micro-grants" to help fund research they believe in.

During this early stage of FMR's development, proposals will be reviewed by a team of three scientists. These scientists may seek outside, independent review from willing experts in the subject matter represented, if warranted.

Once review has been completed and proposals have been ranked, FMR will select and post approximately the five highest-ranking research proposals on its website. Once these projects are funded and monies distributed to the researchers' institutions, the next five most high-ranking proposals will be selected from the submittals for posting. This process will continue, as long as public interest in FMR is sustained, until the top 100 most highly ranked proposals have been posted.

There is no guarantee that a proposal will be posted. Once posted, there is no guarantee that a proposal will be funded by on-line donations.

Intellectual property

Proposals posted on FMR will be available for public online viewing. As such, the ideas presented can be accessed by anyone. Each researcher posting a proposal shall be responsible for copyrighting their proposal, if desired, and shall include a statement of their institution's intellectual property rights policy. This policy will become a part of the posting on FMR's website. Grantors will be able to see this



information and choose whether they are willing to fund proposals with restrictive property rights. It is important to note that many grantors hold a strong intention that the research they fund be incorporated into a larger body of knowledge. If intellectual property rights are highly restrictive, this could affect the funding prospects for a posted proposal.

Reporting Research Outcomes

All proposals are required to include a time table for reporting results. Reports will be archived by FMR and will be available to donors. Reports will not be made public by FMR. FMR will remind donors of report due dates and will send reports to the donors of a specific project. FMR will provide donors with the contact information provided by the principal investigator and institution. FMR will also inform the Principal Investigator and the Institution of reporting deadlines.

Failure to report within 30 days of the due date will result in FMR refusing all future proposals from the institution until reporting requirements are met.

Distribution of Funding

The time period that a proposal can be posted and funds solicited will be specified by the proposer in consultation with FMR. When at least 75% of the proposed budget has been donated to FMR, the researcher will have the option of receiving the donation or waiting until up to 100% of the proposed budget can be funded. When the researcher accepts funding, they will submit a statement that the proposed research can be completed with the amount available.

In cases where proposals do not receive sufficient donations in the specified time period, the funds will be returned to the donors, who will also be asked whether these funds may be directed to another project.

A researcher and their institution may withdraw a proposal from posting on FMR at any time, with five days written notice. If donations have accrued, the funds will be returned to the donors, who will also be asked whether these funds may be directed to another project.

Once the top 100 proposals received as a result of this first call for proposals have been posted, a new call for proposals will be posted on the website and forwarded to researchers that have requested notification (see website for registration information).

Proposal Guidelines

Proposal guidelines are minimal. Researchers are encouraged to make every attempt to truly engage the public in their research passion. Within certain limits, described below, proposers are encouraged to be creative. Proposers are also encouraged to be very succinct while still giving enough information for highly skilled proposal reviewers to see that their project is worthy of funding.

All researchers must be associated with institutions (e.g., universities, research institutes, museums, non-government organizations). FMR does not fund private individuals. Institutions must be willing to accept funding for projects under the following guidelines:



Again, FMR does not fund any type of for-profit endeavors, start-up companies, and does not make loans.

After a proposal is funded, the researcher's sponsoring institution will receive the sum of all donations directed at the specific project and the institution will distribute it appropriately to the researcher. FMR will pay indirect, administrative costs to the researcher's institution on a sliding scale based on the size of the FMR grant. For grants less than \$5,000, no administrative fee will be paid. For grants between \$5,001 and \$25,000, an administrative fee of 5% will be paid to the researcher's institution. For grants over \$25,000, FMR, as part of the donations received, will pay an administrative fee of 10% to the participating institution. Administrative fees cover costs such as laboratory space, internal administrative costs, and general institutional operational costs inherent in providing research facilities as a normal course of the institution's mission. Donors will be fully apprised that a portion of their donation will be devoted to paying these institutional fees. FMR will not retain any funds. As described below, operating costs of FMR.org will depend on donations and eventually an endowment.

Proposals submitted for review and possible posting may be from any research and technology field. Proposers may seek funding to attend scientific conferences and events. Researchers' stipends and expenses may be included in project budgets. Researchers may seek salaries, tuition, endowments, fees, funds for the construction or completion of laboratories and other facilities, and other types of funding, recognizing that it is up to the general public – our grantors -- whether these proposals will succeed at obtaining funding.

Suggested Proposal Contents:

1. Title
2. Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, Institutional Affiliations
3. Proposal summary (1 page)
4. Proposal narrative
5. Expected research outcomes
6. Impacts to society
7. Budget
8. Institutional support letter
9. All necessary research permits, for example Animal use and care approval from Institution, Use of Human Subjects approval from Institution, international research permits, etc.
10. Letters of support from collaborators, experts, institutions

Title of Proposed Project

The title of the project should be brief, compelling, scientifically or technically valid, and intelligible to both a scientifically or technically literate reader as well as a member of the general public.

Principal Investigators, Co-investigators, Institutional Affiliations

Provide a summary description of principal and co-investigators involved in the project, their previous experience, education, background and a statement of their specific interest in the work described in the project submitted for posting. Also describe, briefly, the affiliated institution and facilities that will be utilized in the execution of the project.



Project Summary

Provide a one-page description of the project, methods, budget, and investigator(s) biography.

Budget and Duration Information (Suggest this be limited to one Page)

The proposed duration for which funding is requested must be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity. FMR suggests, at this point in its evolution, that researchers consider submitting funding requests for short-duration projects or distinct phases of on-going projects. Posting results at intervals and upon completion will assist in drawing on-going interest from public grantors. However, reviewers will consider the duration necessary to complete the proposed work. Specifying a desired starting date and end date (deadline) will be helpful to reviewers as well as potential grantors. Please note that grants will not be forwarded to the researcher's institution until the project is substantially funded. Consideration should be given to the fact that this may take days, weeks or months.

Principal Investigator (PI) Information and co-PI Contact Information

Investigators must be identified, along with the researchers' institution(s). FMR requires specific address information and contact information as well. This information will not be posted on the website. The investigator(s) names and institutions will be posted.

When the project is funded and research begins, the donors will receive contact information that the institution and investigator provide for the purpose of maintaining direct contact with donors.

Previous Funding and Matching Funds

If the proposal represents a continuation of on-going research, it is suggested that the proposal explicitly state that other funding has been contributed and by who.

Many research endeavors are able to make use of multiple sources of funds. FMR does allow investigators to pursue matching funds arrangements. For example one funding institution may only provide matching funds. Donations from FMR could be used to justify the match, enhancing the overall funds while at the same time adding value to the donations received from FMR donors. Specifically state in your proposal whether you intend to use FMR funding to seek matching funds.

Project/Performance Site Primary Location

State where the project will be performed, including the institution and any off-site location(s).

Statement of Work to be Performed (Suggest a 5-page Limit)

Describe the project as succinctly as possible. Include project goals and objectives, methods, expected significance of the work as well as its broader impacts (significance to society at large), the current state of knowledge about the proposed subject, generally outline the work plan (including activities to be undertaken), describe how the work relates to the long-term plans of the investigator(s), describe how the results will be broadly disseminated, describe how data will be managed and preserved, and



describe the investigators' prior work in this area (if any) and how it has moved the body of knowledge in this subject area forward,

Biographies of Investigator(s)

Provide a biography of each investigator. Limit each biography to two pages. FMR strongly suggests including a photograph of each investigator for posting on the web site, along with the proposal. Submission of a photograph with the proposal implies permission for its posting.

Facilities and Equipment Available to Facilitate the Project

Describe the support facilities and equipment available at the researchers' institution that can and will be utilized to support the work

References Cited

No page limitation, however, this section must include bibliographic citations only.

Proposal Submittal:

Proposals must be submitted in pdf format via email to info@fundmyresearch.org.

Once a Proposal Has Been Submitted and Posted:

FMR proposers are strongly encouraged to publicize that their proposal is posted on the FMR web site and to seek donors. FMR encourages researchers worldwide to publicize the organization, the website, and any and all posted proposals.

In other words, "spread the word".