

FAQs from BCERP Technical Assistance Webinar for RFA-ES-14-011 and RFA-ES-14-012

December 9, 2014

This document is a compilation of questions that were asked during the Technical Assistance Webinars as well as questions that NIH staff have been frequently asked to date. Please search the document for the answer to your questions, before contacting staff.

Letters of intent (LOI)

1. When are letters of intent due?

Letters of Intent (LOI) are due on January 28, 2015. Because this due date falls on a Sunday, according to NIH policy, the official due date is extended to the next business day. However, since the LOI is voluntary and non-binding, late letters will also be accepted. [Emailed letters are preferred.](#)

Page Limits

2. How many pages are allowed for the Research Strategy section of the application?

Both RFA-ES-14-011 and RFA-ES-14-012 have an extended page limit for the Research Strategy section of up to 30 pages. Of note, applicants are not required to use all 30 pages and are still encouraged to keep text succinct and focused.

Please see the “PHS 398 Research Plan” section of each respective RFA for specialized instruction on information to be included in the Research Plan of the application.

Research Aims

3. Does the “experimental study” component required under RFA-ES-14-012 require use of an animal model?

No. Applicants must propose at least one experimental research aim, but this aim may use *in vivo* or *in vitro* models.

4. My proposal will focus on breast cancer incidence directly. Does the application also have to include a focus on an intermediate risk factor for breast cancer (such as breast density or benign breast disease)?

No. This is an encouraged element but not required if the application will be looking at breast cancer directly as the primary outcome of interest.

New versus Renewal Applications

10. I am a current BCERP member. Should I submit a new or renewal application?

RFA-ES-14-012 allows both new applications as well as renewal applications from existing BCERP grantees funded under RFA-ES-09-008 (current Puberty Study program) and RFA-ES-09-009 (current Windows of Susceptibility program). If you consider your application a continuation of the work funded under either your current BCERP Puberty Study or WOS award, you can submit the application as a renewal application. The renewal application would

then include the usual additional application sections for that application type. However, you do not have to submit as a renewal application if this new proposal represents a change in scientific direction and/or you prefer to submit as a new application.

RFA-ES-14-011 only allows new applications.

Budget

1. Does the \$600,000 direct cost limit include the indirects of subcontracts?

Per standard NIH practices, the Direct Cost limits posted in RFA-ES-14-012 and RFA-ES-14-011 does not include consortium F&A in that limit.

2. There's a \$600,000 direct cost limit, but what about a total cost limit?

Indirect costs are calculated based on negotiated institutional F&A rate agreements. There is no specific total cost limit because each institution needs to apply the indirect cost that's applicable to their institution.

3. The Coordinating Center RFA recommends budgeting \$100,000 direct costs/year for the BCERP Opportunity fund (pilot project program). How much of this can be used for the Coordinating Center's management of the Opportunity fund?

The amount designated as "BCERP Opportunity Fund" in the budget should be specifically for the pilot projects. Each applicant should describe how they plan to manage the program and may include any management costs in the appropriate line item (e.g. staff time may be included in salary and fringe benefits lines). Also, the applicants should be able to apply full F&A recovery for these direct costs, so that may provide some administrative cost support.