

Do you have a high-risk/high-reward research idea that could change the world? Is it so risky that no government agency would fund it? If so, you should apply for a Keck Foundation grant opportunity!

The Opportunity

Focus area: Science and Engineering (including biomedical engineering) projects for Main Campus researchers. Award: \$1 million+ over 3 years, payable in December 2023.

UNM is seeking cutting-edge basic science and engineering research projects to consider for presentation to the W.M. Keck Foundation. As such, we are conducting an internal idea development and limited competition process to provide opportunities for new collaborations and feedback, and then to identify and select competitive ideas.

Deadline to submit presentations: **October 10, 2022**

Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies
- Represent innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary advancements that potentially involve paradigm shifts on a fundamental science level

Keck does NOT typically fund field studies or other applied research projects.

About the Keck Foundation Awards (<http://wmkeck.org/>)

The Keck Foundation Research Program supports projects in science, engineering and medical research that are distinctive and novel, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field. **The Keck Foundation is seeking proposals that explain how a project is going to significantly change the world. Thus, proposals must:**

- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy in general, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success

Both senior and early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Team approaches, including interdisciplinary teams, are encouraged.

The Process

Bring your idea to the Keck Foundation Lightning Pitch and Networking Event!

- Summarize the information below in a 8-10-minute Zoom presentation (slide template is found on the right side of the screen in InfoReady Review (<https://unm.infoready4.com/>) to a panel of interested attendees, prospective collaborators, research development professionals and Keck experts (program liaisons/past awardees). Note: The University community will be invited to this event. A 10-minute maximum time limit will be strictly enforced.
- Your presentation should be created for an educated, lay audience who may not be experts in your field and should focus on the potential impacts of your project. Proposal ideas may be in various stages of development. After each lightning pitch, attendees may ask questions, offer feedback, or share ideas to create something truly innovative! With feedback from this networking event, individuals or teams are encouraged to develop one-page

concept papers for a limited competition. A maximum of four concept papers will be selected to present to the Keck Foundation for feedback in January 2022.

- **Title Slide**
 - Include your project title, name, and school, department and/or center.
- **Slide 1: Overview of the Project**
 - Provide an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies. Note: **the Keck Foundation funds basic, exploratory science, and is looking for transformational, not incremental, research. Explain how your project is fundamental and basic, not applied, research. NSF defines them as:**

Basic Research	Applied Research
Basic research is the pursuit of new scientific knowledge or understanding that does not have specific immediate commercial objectives, although it may be in fields of present or potential commercial interest.	Applied research applies the findings of basic research or other existing knowledge toward discovering new scientific knowledge that has specific commercial objectives with respect to new products, services, processes, or methods.

- If your concept does not have the potential to transform your field of research, it is unlikely to be competitive.
- **Slide 2: The Team & Methods**
 - Describe your team members and a description of your methodologies. If you are seeking additional expertise for your team, explain that here, too.
- **Slide 3: Why Keck?**
 - How is your project groundbreaking/transformational/risky?
 - Why should Keck fund it (why have public agencies declined to fund this work?)
 - Impact—how your project will change the world?

You do not have to propose a detailed budget at this time, but bear in mind that:

- PI salary cannot exceed more than 10% of annual
- Keck will not pay any F&A, but these costs can be imputed as cost share
- Keck will not pay tuition
- Keck will not pay any costs for government/national laboratory collaborator salaries

Schedule: Limited Competition Multi-step process

1. Submit your slides via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/> no later than noon on Wednesday, **October 10, 2022**. Note: A committee will review your submission and presenters will be selected based on fit with Keck's program and the number of presentation slots available. You will receive confirmation of selection by EOB **October 12, 2022**. You will be expected to attend the Virtual Pitch Presentations between 1:30-4:00 (exact time TBD) on Tuesday, **October 18, 2022** to present your pitch.
2. Participate in the limited competition process by submitting your 1-page concept paper through InfoReady Review by **November 11, 2022**. *Only presenters and their collaborators who participated in step one will be eligible to submit.*
3. The Limited Competitions Review Committee will make selections by **November 18, 2022** and will notify all competitors. If selected, be prepared to work with Betsy Till at the UNM Foundation to finalize your 1-page concept paper for submission to the Keck Foundation by **January 13, 2023**.

Example Awards

https://www.wmkeck.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Abstracts_J22_SE_2.pdf
https://www.wmkeck.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Abstracts_D21_SE.pdf
https://www.wmkeck.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Abstracts_J21_SE.pdf

Questions about the Limited Competitions process?

Please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

You may also contact Betsy Till, Sr. Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations at the UNM Foundation: (505) 313-7678 or betsy.till@unmfund.org with questions about the Keck Foundation.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-Limited-Comps@salud.unm.edu for more information.