



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competitions: W.M. Keck Foundation Grant Opportunity

Date: May 11, 2020

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.

UNM Main Campus researchers are eligible to apply for a W.M. Keck Foundation Science and Engineering program area grant. The Keck Foundation is focused on funding *basic, exploratory, distinctive and novel* science and engineering research initiatives. They are particularly interested in pioneering discoveries and applications that propose *“high-risk endeavors with high potential for “transformative impact.”* Thus, they are looking to support research on questions that *“push the edge of the field, present unconventional approaches to intractable problems, or challenge the prevailing paradigm.”*

The suggested maximum grant request is \$1 million. Grant duration is typically 3 years.

The Keck Foundation will accept up to four, one-page preliminary concept papers in the Science and Engineering program area for “pre-application counseling.” The Foundation will review and discuss each of the concepts to indicate whether they may be receptive to a proposal for that project. Based on that feedback, UNM will choose one concept to submit as a Phase I application for a November 1, 2020 deadline.

If you anticipate that you will be submitting a preproposal for this internal competition, please send a statement of interest via e-mail to limited@unm.edu by **June 1, 2020**. This will help us to arrange a review committee in advance to expedite the process and maximize the amount of time the selected submitter has to prepare their final submission to the sponsor.

This is a limited competition. For consideration, please send a one-page concept paper to limited@unm.edu by **NOON on June 15, 2020.** The paper must be in 12-point font with 1-inch margins and include:

- an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies for Research Program concepts. **The Keck Foundation funds basic, exploratory science, and is looking for transformational, not incremental, research.** If your concept does not have the potential to transform your field of research, it is unlikely to be competitive;
- a description of the methodologies and key personnel;
- a brief justification of the need for Keck support, including justification that the *work would not be funded by another agency*; and
- an estimated budget broken down, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (budgets can be rough approximations at this stage).
- 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 salaries.

If there's room, authors are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution's prominence in the field, etc.).

Note: While Science and Engineering grants may incorporate medical research concepts, the opportunity to apply for a Science and Engineering program area grant is available only to Main Campus researchers.

Special Note: In light of the Covid-19 crisis, the Keck Foundation provides the following statement:

No Change to Our Medical Research and Science and Engineering Grantmaking

We will continue our regular schedule for research grants with applications due May 1 and November 1. While we will balance our special Southern California COVID-19 grants with our research grants, we do believe now more than ever the scientific research community must continue to explore high risk, high impact issues.

More information can be found at:

Keck Foundation website: <http://www.wmkeck.org/>

Application process: <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/application-process-14030>

Concept paper description: <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/application-process-14030/214-grantprograms/shared/1482-concept-papers>

Funded grant abstracts: <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/medical-research-grant-abstracts>

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Monica Fishel or Mary Jo Daniel frdo@unm.edu.

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