



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: March 5, 2025

UNM JOINT HSC+Main Limited Competition Announcement

UNM Main Campus and Health Sciences Center researchers are eligible to apply for a W.M. Keck Foundation grant in the Science and Engineering program area or the Medical Research program area. 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 to \$1.5 million. Grant duration is typically 3 years.

The Keck Foundation will accept up to eight, one-page preliminary concept papers (up to four) in the Science and Engineering program area and (up to four) in the Medical Research program area for “pre-application counseling.” The concept counseling period takes place between July 1 through August 15. 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 may choose one concept in each program area to submit as a Phase I application for a November 1, 2025 deadline.

Limited Competition Instructions for both Main Campus and HSC applicants: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the concept paper deadline. **You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.**

STEP ONE: Please submit a 200-word **statement of interest** by **NOON on April 3, 2025** via UNM’s [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step and no late submissions will be considered.

STEP TWO: Submit a **one-page concept paper** by **NOON on April 14, 2025** via UNM’s [InfoReady Review portal](#). 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). Please note the following:
 - 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, applicants may add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution's prominence in the field, etc.).

You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the concept paper application, but you can work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

Additional information:

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

Application process: <https://www.wmkeck.org/research-application-process/>

Program Overview: <https://www.wmkeck.org/research-overview/>

Funded grant abstracts: <https://www.wmkeck.org/our-focus-research/#focus-abstracts-research>

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu or HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.

You may also contact Jim O'Brien, Sr. Director of Development for Corporate and Foundation Relations Research at the UNM Foundation at (505) 313-7633 or jim.obrien@unmfund.org with any questions about the Keck Foundation.