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

Subject: Limited Competitions: NSF: Partnerships for Innovation (NSF 18-511)

Date: November 10, 2017

The NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) offers researchers the opportunity to transform new knowledge into societal benefits through translational research and technology development efforts which catalyze partnerships to accelerate innovations that address significant societal needs. More details can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18511/nsf18511.pdf.

PFI has six broad goals: (1) identifying and supporting Foundation-sponsored research and technologies that have the potential for accelerated commercialization; (2) supporting prior or current Foundation-sponsored researchers, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations that partner with an institution of higher education to undertake proof-of-concept work, including the development of technology prototypes that are derived from NSF funded research and have potential market value; (3) promoting sustainable partnerships between Foundation funded institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology; (4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to the specific needs of academia and industry; (5) catalyzing professional development activities, mentoring, and best practices in entrepreneurship and technology translation for faculty, students and researchers; and (6) expanding the participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in innovation, technology translation, and entrepreneurship.

This solicitation offers two broad tracks for proposals in pursuit of the six aforementioned goals. The Technology Translation (PFI-TT) track offers an NSF-funded researcher the opportunity to advance his or her prior NSF-funded research results towards developing technological innovations with promising commercial potential and societal impact. The Research Partnerships (PFI-RP) track provides an opportunity to support technology development activities through a multi-organization collaboration.

Lineage Requirement: The PFI-TT proposal track has a lineage requirement under one or two of the following paths: (1) through NSF-supported research results, or (2) NSF-supported (National I-CorpsTM Teams) customer discovery results. The PFI-Research Partnerships (PFI-RP) proposal track does NOT have a lineage requirement, but for this track, in addition to the PI, there must be at least (but not limited to) one other participant on the project serving as a co-PI, who brings technology commercialization experience in the targeted fields of application (or industry sector) of the proposed technology to be developed.

PFI-TT projects will be funded for up to $200,000 for 18 months per award. PFI-RP projects will be funded for up to $750,000 for 36 months. Full proposals are due to the sponsor February 1, 2018.

This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to two proposals with no restrictions on the type of track(s) chosen. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, send a 1-page statement of
interest with a tentative project title and a brief project description. In the description include to what track you are applying. If you are applying to the PFI-TT track, include information about your lineage path as the PI. If you are applying to the PFI-RP, provide the name(s) and description of your co-PI(s) and how they are prepared to use their experience to commercialize the proposed technology to be developed. Finally, in your description, include how your proposal will meet one or more of the broad PFI goals.

Send your statement of interest via e-mail to limited@unm.edu by noon, Monday, November 20, 2017. Based on the e-mail responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for preproposals. Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

This is a link to register for the upcoming NSF PFI webinars: https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=IIP

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