

2025-2026 CBCRP Call for Applications

Applicant Informational Webinar

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Sen Fernandez Poole

Agenda

- Introduction to the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)
- 2025-2026 Funding Strategy and Important Dates
- Research Priorities
- CBCRP Award Requirements and Review Process
 - Bridge Funding for Fellows
 - Fellowship Awards
 - IDEA Awards
 - Community Research Collaboration Awards
 - Conference Awards (Community-Led and Standard)

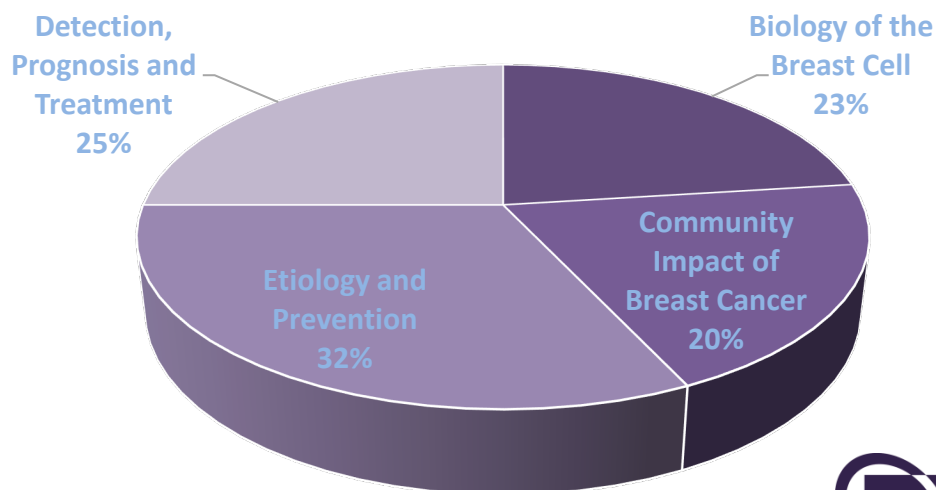
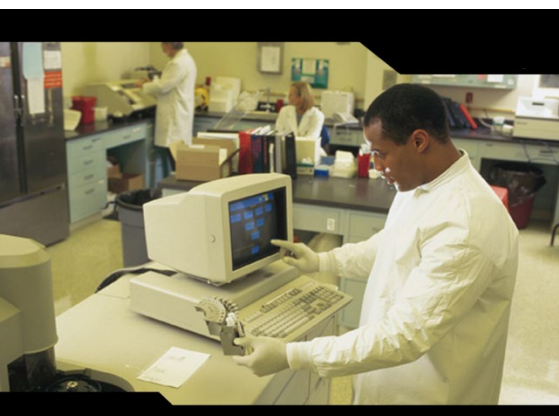
About the California Breast Cancer Research Program

- Founded in 1993
 - breast cancer activists, scientists, clinicians, state legislators, and University of California officials collaborated to win passage in the state legislature of the California Breast Cancer Act.
 - funded by a tax on tobacco products, voluntary state personal income tax form check-off, and individual contributions.
 - tax check-off has drawn over \$15 million for breast cancer research.
- One of nation's largest state-funded breast cancer research effort
- Ninety-five percent of our revenue goes directly to funding research and education efforts

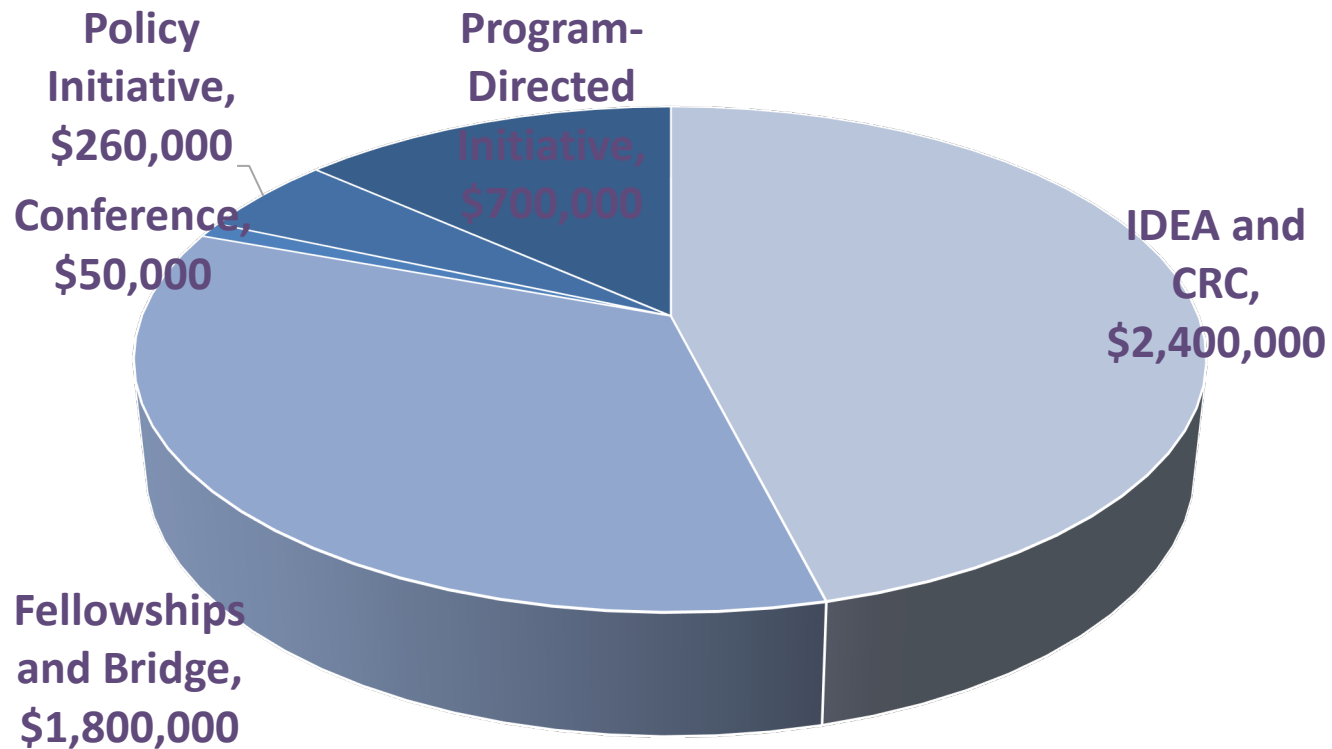
The mission of the California Breast Cancer Research Program is to prevent and eliminate breast cancer by leading innovation in research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities.

Since 1994, CBCRP has funded

- 1,200 grants
- Totaling over \$314 million
- To 879 academic & community researchers
- at 165 institutions across the state



Funding Strategy 2025-2026



Funding Cycle Cadence

Cycle 31

(2024-2025)

IDEA

CRC Pilot

CRC Planning

Conference Awards (Standard
& Community Led)

Policy Initiative

Trainee Supplements

Cycle 32

(2025-2026)

IDEA

CRC Pilot

CRC Full

Fellowship Awards

Bridge Funding for Fellows

Conference Awards (Standard
& Community Led)

Policy Initiative

Trainee Supplements

Cycle 33

(2026-2027)

IDEA

CRC Pilot

CRC Planning

Conference Awards (Standard
& Community Led)

Policy Initiative

Trainee Supplements

Cycle 34

(2027-2028)

IDEA

CRC Pilot

CRC Full

Conference Awards (Standard
& Community Led)

Policy Initiative

Trainee Supplements

Important Dates and Deadlines

	LOI Due	Application Due	Start Date
Bridge Funding	Not Applicable	October 30, 2025	February 1, 2026
Fellowship Awards	January 15, 2026	March 5, 2026	August 1, 2026
IDEA Award	October 16, 2025	March 5, 2026	August 1, 2026
Community Research Collaboration Pilot and Full Award	Not Applicable	March 5, 2026	August 1, 2026
Standard Conference Award	Not Applicable	October 30, 2025	January 15, 2026
Community-Led Conference Award	October 30, 2025	February 19, 2026	June 1, 2026

CBCRP Research Priorities

I. The Community Impact of Breast Cancer: The Social Context

- Health Policy
- Health Services
- Sociocultural, Behavioral and Psychological Issues Relevant to Breast Cancer: The Human Side
- Disparities: Eliminating the Unequal Burden of Breast Cancer

II. Etiology and Prevention: Finding the Underlying Causes

- Etiology: The Role of Environment and Lifestyle
- Prevention and Risk Reduction: Ending the Danger of Breast Cancer

CBCRP Research Priorities (con't)

III. Biology of the Breast Cell: The Basic Science of the Disease

- Biology of the Normal Breast: The Starting Point
- Pathogenesis: Understanding the Disease

IV. Detection, Prognosis and Treatment: Delivering Clinical Solutions

- Imaging, Biomarkers, and Molecular Pathology: Improving Detection and Diagnosis
- Innovative Treatment Modalities: Searching for a Cure

Questions?

FUNDING FOR FELLOWS

Funding Opportunities for Fellows

- **Bridge Funding for Fellows:** Supports predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows whose federal fellowships have been prematurely terminated and are pursuing breast cancer research in California.
- **Predoctoral Fellowships:** Students enrolled in a doctoral graduate program in California conducting breast cancer research and mentored by an established breast cancer researcher.
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships:** Breast cancer researchers hired as postdoctoral fellows by a California institution and mentored by an established breast cancer researcher.

Bridge Funding for Fellows

Purpose: To support the completion of work on a breast cancer project terminated prematurely in 2025 and/or the preparation for transferring the project to a new environment.

Eligibility

- CA resident who either:
 - is currently enrolled at a California institution in a graduate program with a terminal masters or doctoral degree
 - holds the position of postdoctoral fellow as defined by the institution
- Project must be focused on breast cancer
- Fellow must have been funded on a project supported by a federal grant
- The fellow or mentor must have been officially notified that the grant was terminated between January 6 and October 30, 2025.

Project Duration & Total project direct cost Budget Caps:

- 12 months maximum duration
- \$25,000 maximum direct costs. No indirect costs

Bridge Funding for Fellows – Review and Decisions

Application Submission Documents Required

- Abstract describing Bridge Funding activities
- Budget
- Bridge Funding Plan
- Biosketch
- Abstract and specific aims of original grant
- Copy of the grant termination notice

Evaluated by the CBCRP Council:

- Response to priorities
- CBCRP balance or underfunded
- Impact of Bridge Funding on Applicant

Funding decisions will be communicated in December 2025.

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Eligibility

- Reside in California
- Project focused on CBCRP research priority
- Mentor a breast cancer researcher
- **Predoctoral** – Doctoral-level graduate student at a California institution who will have advanced to candidacy level by August 1, 2026
- **Postdoctoral** – Doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent) by August 1, 2026 and employed at a California institution with the title of postdoctoral fellow or an institutional equivalent

A letter of intent will be used by CBCRP staff to evaluate eligibility. Decisions will be communicated within 5 working days.

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships - Duration & Budget

Annual Budget Limits for	Predoctoral	Postdoctoral
Salary/Stipend	\$60,000	\$70,000
Tuition	\$10,000	\$0
Institutional Allowance	\$4,400	\$20,000
CBCRP Meeting (year one only)	\$400	\$400

- 2 years maximum duration
- No indirect costs allowed

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships – Full Application

Application

- Materials available in SmartSimple upon acceptance of LOI.

Review and Funding Decisions

- Scientific review conducted by researchers and advocates recruited from outside of California
- Programmatic review conducted by CBCRC Council
- Funding recommendations made by CBCRC Council
- Funding recommendation finalized by RGPO Executive Director

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Program Responsiveness
- Distinction from Other Funding
- Additional Criteria
 - Underserved
 - Dissemination
- Research Plan
- Training Plan
- Mentor Training Experience
- Biosketches (Fellow and mentor)
- Facilities
- Human and Animal Subjects
- Appendix
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Mentor
 - 2-4 additional referees

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships – Peer Review Criteria

- **Impact**
 - The extent to which the project would make an original and important contribution to breast cancer research and address gaps in the breast cancer field and/or the research pipeline.
- **Approach**
 - **Predoctoral** - The quality, organization, and presentation of the research plan. Are the hypothesis and specific aims well described and logical? Will the methods in the research plan allow the PI to address the hypothesis and aims?
 - **Postdoctoral** - The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are developed, well integrated, and appropriate to address the hypothesis and aims of the project. Is the research design innovative?

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships – Peer Review Criteria

- **Feasibility**

- **Predoctoral** - The qualifications of the applicant and quality of the proposed training. Research environment, mentoring team and resources
- **Postdoctoral** - The qualifications of the applicant. Research environment and mentoring. Can the project be completed in the proposed timeline?

- **Career Development**

- **Predoctoral** - The mentor's commitment to the candidate and track record in breast cancer research. The extent to which the project and training plan will enable the PI to become competitive in the next career stage.
- **Postdoctoral** - The applicant's potential for conducting research in breast cancer, the likelihood that the proposed project and training and the mentor's track record and commitment to the candidate. The environment and resources available for training the applicant.

IDEA RESEARCH AWARDS

IDEA Award Requirements

Purpose

To support speculative, exploratory, high-risk/high-reward projects with a primary focus on breast cancer. Applications for this award type should:

- challenge existing paradigms
- represent a new direction for the PI
- encourage innovation by the incorporation of techniques and approaches not yet well represented in mainstream breast cancer research.

Eligibility

- established researchers and new investigators

Project Duration & Total project direct cost Budget Caps:

- 18 months maximum duration
- \$200,000 for studies involving human participants or animals; \$150,000 for all other studies.

Importance of Advocate Voices



- Purpose of research
- Relevance
- Application of results
- Accountability

Community engaged research is increasingly important to funding agencies and universities.

Who is an “Advocate”?

- Represents a Community
 - Perspective beyond personal
- Affiliation/Connection
 - Link to community
- Experience
 - Knowledge & Skills

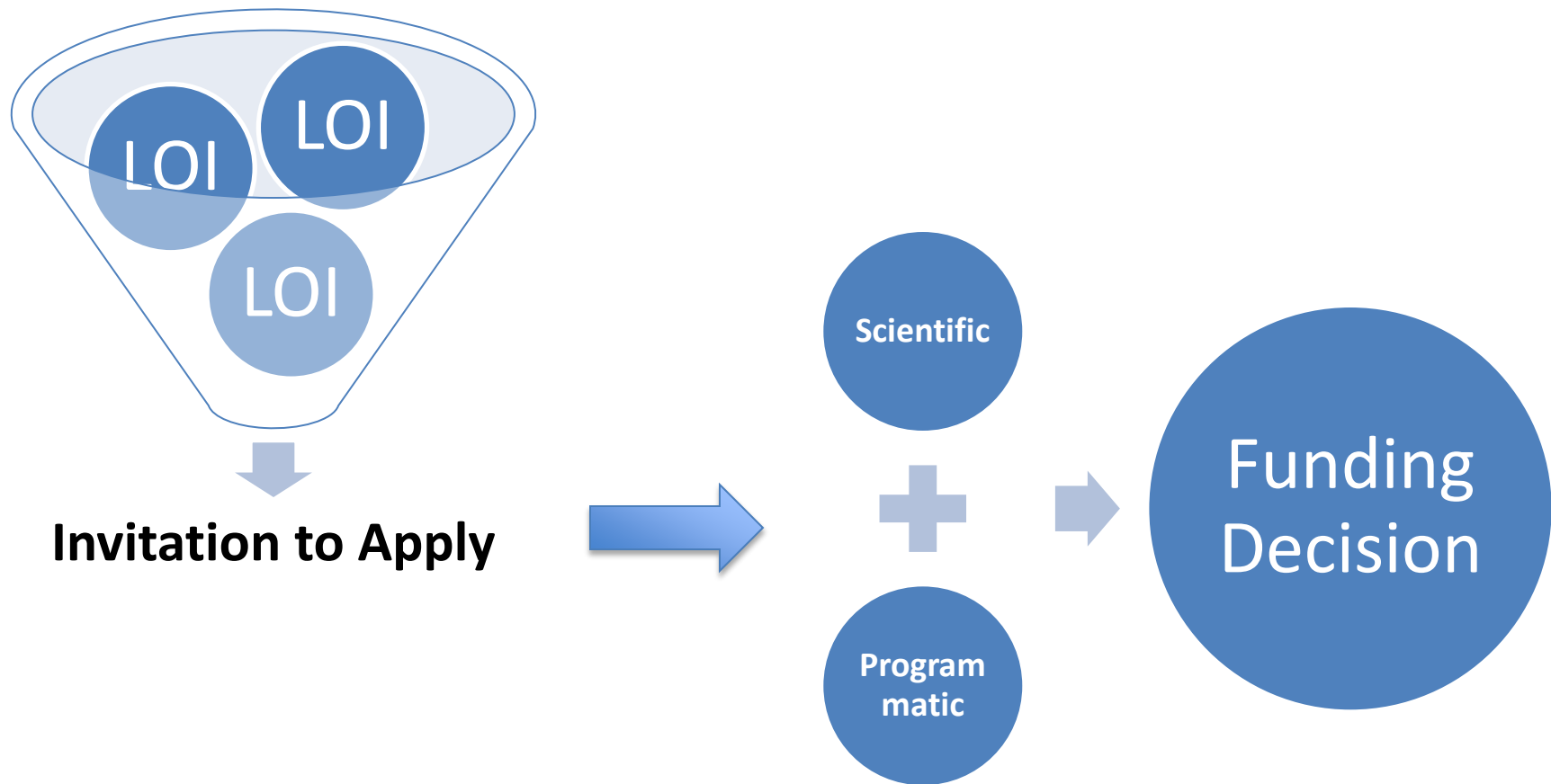


Tips



- Start early.
 - Start thinking about what your project advocacy needs will be in August/September
 - Contact potential advocates at least 5 weeks before LOI is due
- Find advocacy organizations by accessing CBCRP resources:
 - Program Officers
 - CBCRP Website (FAQ's and other resources)
- Build a shared understanding with advocate:
 - What is required at the LOI stage
 - What is required at the application stage
 - What is required during the project
- Start discussing budget and compensation for advocate time as early as possible

Award Submission Process



LOI Includes:

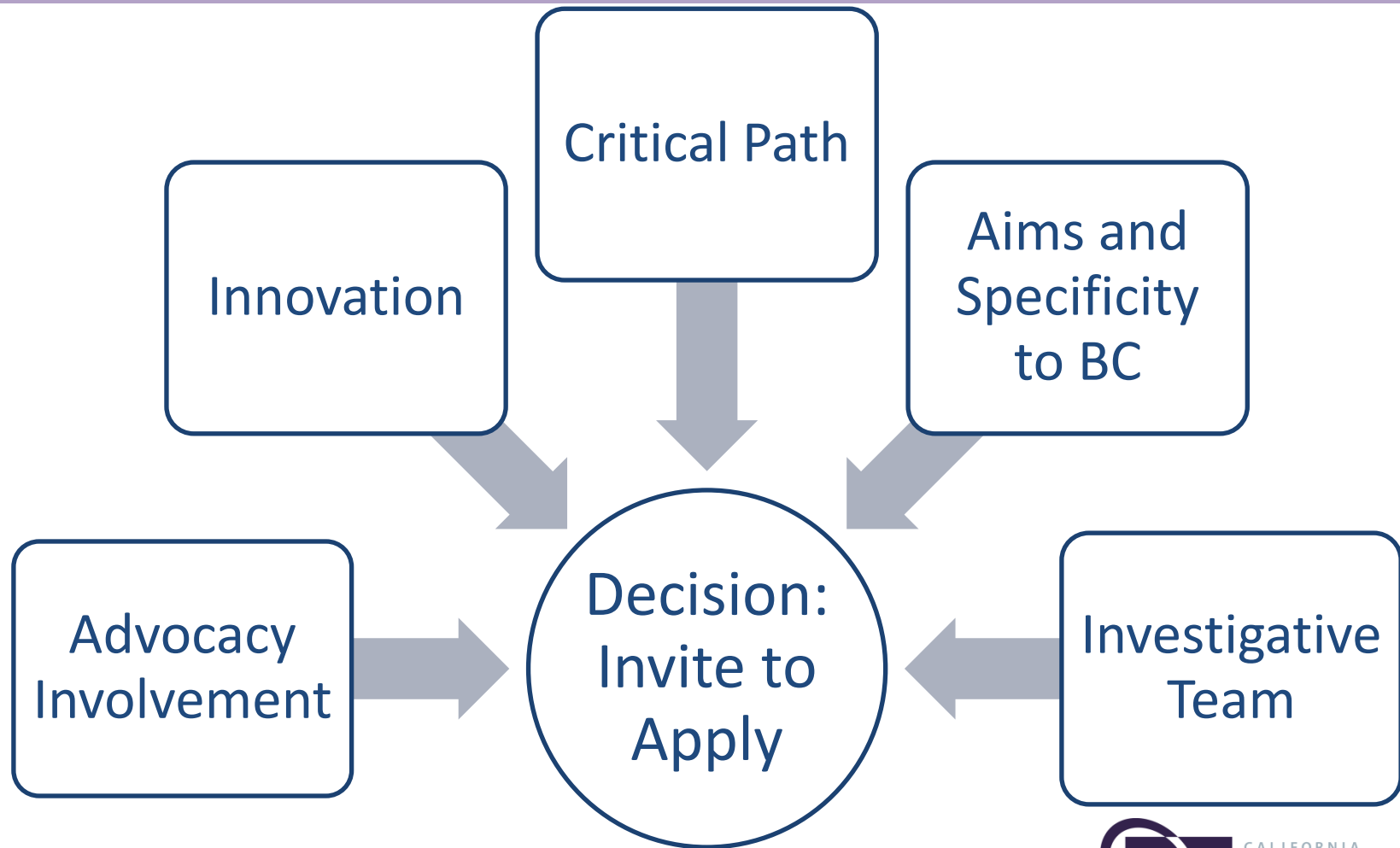
SmartSimple Fields

- Specific aims
- Project summary
- Innovative elements
- Critical path
- Investigative team
- Involvement of advocates

Uploads

- PI Biosketch
- Advocacy Commitment letter

IDEA LOI Review Criteria



IDEA Awards – Full Application

Application

- Materials available upon acceptance of LOI in December 2025

Review and Funding Decisions

- Scientific review conducted by researchers and advocates recruited from outside of California
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- Funding recommendations made by CBCRC Council
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IDEA Awards – Scientific Peer Review

- **Innovativeness:** the extent to which the basic concept and hypotheses are speculative, exploratory, develop new paradigms, and are high risk/high reward.
- **Impact:** the extent to which the project, if successfully carried out, would make an original and important contribution to the defeat of breast cancer.
- **Approach:** The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project.
- **Feasibility:** The extent to which the investigators have maximized their chances for success through demonstrated skill, knowledge, expertise, appropriate resources, and collaborations.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS

CRC Award Requirements

- Solid research plan with compelling research question
 - Equal CPPR partnership between community members and research scientists to:
 - Identify the research question
 - Develop the research plan
 - Carry out the research
 - Interpret the results
 - Disseminate results
- Awarded to teams composed of community organizations/ members and experienced research scientists to perform community participatory research
- Must be a well-defined research question on an issue that has been identified by their community as important to breast cancer.
- Applications must have both **a traditional academic** (e.g., faculty at a university or “traditional” research setting) **and a community member** as co-principal investigators on the project.

CRC Award Types

- CRC Pilot Award: Up to \$200,000 in **direct** costs; up to 1.5 years
 - Supports the initial phase of the project, including:
 - feasibility of methods
 - strengthening collaborations
 - development of tools and methods
 - collecting pilot data
- CRC Full Award: Up to \$600,000 in **direct** costs; up to 3 years
 - For projects with:
 - fully developed research plan with supporting preliminary data
 - well-integrated team of scientific and community members with a previous work relationship
 - typically supports the completion of the research begun in a Pilot CRC award

Community Research Collaboration (CRC) Pilot & Full Award Applications

Application

- Materials available in September 2025

Review and Funding Decisions

- Scientific review conducted by researchers and advocates recruited from outside of California
- Programmatic review conducted by CBCRC Council
- Funding recommendations made by CBCRC Council
- Funding recommendation finalized by RGPO Executive Director

CRC – Scientific Peer Review

CRC Pilot and Full applications are rated independently for **four separate components**:

Quality of the Research

- ❖ The scientific importance of the research questions,
- ❖ Integration and development of conceptual framework, methods, and analysis plans

Feasibility—the likelihood that the proposed research will be accomplished based on:

- ❖ The demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience of the collaborative partnership
- ❖ The adequate and available resources

Partnership/Community Involvement

- ❖ The clarity of definition of the community involved
- ❖ The balance of control and participation in all phases
- ❖ Integration of community partner's knowledge into planning, conducting, and analyzing the research
- ❖ Agreements regarding procedures for resolving disagreements among the collaborators

Community Benefit

- ❖ Importance and benefit to the community of the research question and (expected) outcomes
- ❖ Support for the research by the broader community and community involvement in all aspects of the research
- ❖ The potential for the research project to facilitate learning and further collaboration
- ❖ The plan for translating the results into tangible benefits for the community

PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

Programmatic Review Forms

- All Award Types
 - Lay Abstract
 - Scientific Abstract
 - Program Responsiveness
 - Additional Criteria
 - Distinction from Other Funding
 - PI Biosketch(es)

Programmatic Review Forms

- Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships only
 - Mentor Biosketch
- IDEA Only
 - Advocacy Letter of Commitment
 - Advocacy Involvement
- CRC Awards Only
 - Collaborative Agreements

Programmatic Scoring

Criterion	Scoring	IDEA	CRCs	Fellowships
Response to priority issue	1-6	x	x	x
Response to award type	1-6	x	x	x
Underfunded	1-6	x	x	x
Addressing the needs of the underserved	1-6	x	x	x
Career plan/mentoring	1-6			x
Dissemination to Community	1-6			x
Lay Abstract	1-6	x	x	
Critical Path/Translation	1-6	x	x	
Advocacy Involvement	1-6	x	x	
California Specific	Add. Pt.	x	x	

Programmatic Review – All Award Types

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms	Scoring Criteria
Priority Issue Responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Program Responsiveness form</u> • <u>Abstracts</u> 	How responsive is the proposed research to CBCRP priority issues?
Award Type Responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Program Responsiveness form</u> 	How responsive is the project and PI to the stated intent of the selected award type?
CBCRP Balance or Underfunded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Distinction from Other Funding form</u> • ICRP Portfolio /Dimensions Analysis 	<p>IDEA and CRC: The degree to which the PI has highlighted the unique aspects of the proposed research from their own projects (past and present) and the research by others. Is the research relatively underfunded by other agencies, or not funded?</p> <p>Fellowships - The degree to which the PI on Distinction from Other Funding has highlighted the unique aspects of the proposed research from their own projects (past and present) and the research by others. Has the research area been identified as underfunded by CBCRP as a Program Initiative? Is this a training pipeline that is no longer supported through federal funding?</p>

Programmatic Review – All Award Types

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms	Scoring Criteria
Addressing the Needs of the Underserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Additional Criteria form</u> 	<p>Fellowships: Do the project and the PI's statements demonstrate an understanding of how the fellowship activities could address the needs of the underserved?</p> <p>IDEA and CRC: Do the project and the PI's statements demonstrate how this research will contribute to health equity by addressing breast cancer issues that disproportionately affect communities who have been historically underserved by research and/or health systems? Does the project address inequities and/or the specific needs of communities who are underserved as they bear a disproportionately high burden of breast cancer?</p>

Programmatic Review - Fellowships

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms	Scoring Criteria
Career Plan/Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>PI and Mentor Biosketches</u>	The degree to which the applicant's career plans indicate an interest in and knowledge about breast cancer research and reflect a long-term career commitment to the field, whether in research, policy or advocacy. The alignment of the mentor's qualifications and track record in breast cancer research and training with the applicant's career goals
Dissemination to Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Additional Criteria</u> form	Has the PI committed him/herself to be proactive in disseminating the research to the lay audience? Has the PI identified opportunities to share their research results and experiences beyond the scientific community?

Programmatic Review – IDEA and CRC

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms	Scoring Criteria
Quality of the Lay Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Lay Abstract</u>	Does the Lay Abstract clearly explain in non–technical terms the research background, questions, hypotheses, and goals of the project? Is the relevance to breast cancer understandable? Does the applicant describe the potential public health outcomes of the research?
California Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Additional Criteria form</u>	The degree to which the research project will utilize resources particular to California and/or address a breast cancer need that is specific but not necessarily unique to the burden of breast cancer in California.

Programmatic Review – IDEA and CRC

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms	Scoring Criteria
Critical Path/Translation – IDEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Additional Criteria</u> form	The degree to which the applicant's statements provide a convincing argument that the proposed research fits into and advances a critical path for translation and impact on breast cancer. What barriers must be overcome to take the project to the next level, and what plans are provided for to address these barriers?
Critical Path/Translation – CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Additional Criteria</u> form• <u>Collaborative Agreement</u> form	The degree to which the research and community collaboration, if successful, have the potential to be more broadly distributed and applicable to other communities and the general California population.

Programmatic Review – IDEA and CRC

Programmatic Criteria	Materials and Forms
Advocacy Involvement – IDEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Advocacy Involvement form</u> • <u>Letter of Commitment</u>
Advocacy Involvement - CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Collaborative Agreement form</u>

- Are the named advocate(s) and advocacy organization appropriate for the proposed research project?
- Is there a California-based advocate involved in the project?
- Will the advocate provide a perspective that is historically underrepresented in breast cancer research?
- Were the advocate(s) engaged in the application development process?
- Are meetings and other communications sufficient for substantive engagement?
- Are the roles and responsibilities of the PI and the advocate(s) clearly outlined and is the agreement for advocate compensation and reimbursement clear?
- CRC ONLY - Is the collaborative agreement clear on issues such as ownership of data, community involvement in all phases of project?

Resources available

CBCRP Website

- Award type descriptions - cabreastcancer.org/funding-opportunities
- Tips for involving advocates in your project - cabreastcancer.org/approach/advocacy-involvement
- CRC Guidance and technical assistance - <https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/crc/crc-guidance-and-assistance.html>

CBCRP Staff

- Katherine.McKenzie@ucop.edu – IDEA and Fellowship Awards
- CRInfo@cabreastcancer.org – CRC Awards
- RGPOGrants@ucop.edu Technical assistance with SmartSimple

SmartSimple Support

- All materials must be submitted through SmartSimple
- **Start early** to become familiar with SmartSimple
- **Submit early**: No late applications will be accepted
- Demo for navigating application submission in SmartSimple:
<https://ucop.box.com/s/9k9zij22142um2502kqz0pt9vxtganx0>
- Contact RGPO Contracts and Grants for all technical issues, including user account retrieval.
- Email: RGPOgrants@ucop.edu

Questions?

STANDARD AND COMMUNITY-LED CONFERENCE AWARDS

Why We Offer Conference Awards

- To stimulate ideas and foster research specific to breast cancer
- To build collaborations between groups that do not normally communicate
- To engage community members and investigators outside of the breast cancer field in breast cancer research

Conference Award Funding

- Eligibility: Any individual or organization in California may submit an application. The event must be held in California
- Budget: Up to \$25,000 in direct costs
 - Intend to fund at least one standard award and one community-led award
 - Intend to distribute up to \$50,000 in conference awards

Two Types of Conference Awards

Standard and Community-Led Conference awards have the same requirements, but the community-led conference award applicants receive more time and feedback for preparing the application and/or to host an event

Additional Features of Community-Led Conference Award

- Feedback through letter of intent
- Extended Timeline
- On-line Resources

Community-Led Conference Award Letter of Intent

All Community-Led Conference Award Applicants who submit a Letter of Intent will be invited to submit a full application.

Main Questions in the Letter of Intent

- A description of your organization
- A description of the event
- A description of the organizational capacity to hold the event
- Questions for council

Conference Award LOI & Application Key Dates

Standard Conference Award

- Application due October 30, 2025
- Start Date January 15, 2026

Community-Led Conference Award

- LOI Due – October 30, 2025
- Feedback returned – December, 2025
- Application due February 19, 2026
- Start Date June 1, 2026

Award Requirements

Successful events must address one or more of the following goals:

- highlight resources particular to California
- encourage new collaborations
- examine and create solutions for disparities/inequities
- inspire paradigm-shifting research
- inform policy
- promote translational and/or outcome driven research that will impact public health outcomes
- create tools for educating members of the public about breast cancer

Award Requirements

The event must deliver a product that will further breast cancer research, education and/or policy development. Examples of products include, but are not limited to:

- A description of new breast cancer research aims/priorities identified by meeting attendees
- Action plan for supporting new collaborations
- New cutting edge communication tools and/or technology
- A list and description of new investigators/potential researchers/advocates that have been introduced to the field
- A curriculum of presented and planned papers or editorial pieces

Award Evaluation

Applications Reviewed by California Breast Cancer Research Council

- **RELEVANCE** of the event topic(s) to the CBCRP priority issues
- **OUTREACH** to breast cancer advocates and disciplines not currently integrated into breast cancer
- Potential of the conference and the underlying **APPROACH** to advance research by generating new ideas and facilitating collaboration
- **QUALIFICATIONS** and background of the applicants/conference organizers

Resources available

Funding Opportunities Section of CBCRP Website

cabreastcancer.org/funding-opportunities/conference-awards/community-led-conference-award.html

- Letter of Intent instructions
- Grant writing resources
- Event planning Resources
- Conference-focused webinar

CBCRP Staff

- conferenceaward@cabreastcancer.org
- RGPOGrants@ucop.edu – SmartSimple assistance



Questions?

SmartSimple Support

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