

# Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization (MTRAC) Program for Advanced Computing Qualifying Questions

Q - What will be the start date for the grant, if awarded?

A – Once the Joint Evaluation Committee (JEC) reviews applications and selects the preferred grantee for the Innovation Hub designation and first year of funding, this recommendation will be made to the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board at its March or April 2025 meeting. The dates and timelines proposed in your application will be considered. However, for the grant’s administrative activities, a start date of July 1, 2025, or after, would be ideal. Subsequently, a later start date for the Innovation Hub’s posting of translational project applications, collecting applications, reviewing, and awarding to the sub-grantees will be acceptable as it is understood that it may take some time to stand up the program’s infrastructure.

Q - Should the budget proposal be for Year 1 and Year 2, and both at \$425K only? Also, should an increase in Year 2 be factored in?

A – A budgeted amount of \$425,000 for year #1 of the 2025 MTRAC Innovation Hub designation for Advanced Computing has been allotted. The ensuing years #2-#6 will need to be awarded by the MSF board each year. This amount can be increased or decreased by the MSF board. So, year #1 should not exceed \$425,000. Also, an increase in the amount forecasted for year #2 is acceptable, however, the actual amount for year #2 will need to be approved by the MSF board at a later time.

Q - What percentage of total funds requested should be earmarked for non-project funds vs. project funds?

A – It is for you to determine what percentage this amount is to be. This is what makes your proposal less or more competitive to the Joint Evaluation Committee. Under “Eligibility Requirements of Innovation Hubs, the Statewide MTRAC Guidelines require a hub to: “Have a Commercialization Program Director (“CPD”) who is responsible for program management, oversight, and reporting to ensure program efficiency and future success.”

Q - Is there a limit to the amount of program administration funds requested?

A – There is no limit. This is a factor that makes your proposal less or more competitive to the Joint Evaluation Committee.

Q - Will you clarify if the 15% indirect cost covers the total direct funds, or if it excludes administrative costs?

A – General administrative costs are part of the indirect costs (often called: facilities and administrative costs). A proposer should calculate the total direct project costs (e.g. a project portion of the commercialization program director’s salary and fringe benefits, a portion of the project staff support, related project travel, related project meetings, and other) and then, they may add up to an additional 15% to that amount while staying under the \$425,000 year #1 ceiling.

Q - If the PI is not the CPD, do they have to have any time allocated to the grant? If so, what is the maximum amount?

A – The designated principal investigator does not need to have any time or effort allocated to the grant.

Q - Can refreshments/lunch for Oversight Committee meetings be included in “Other Admin Costs?”

A – Yes, but you are never to include any alcohol.

Q - Can travel expenses of the CPD or other key personnel be included in “Other Admin Costs?”

A – Yes.

Q - Could you please email me the RFP Document Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization (MTRAC) Program for Advanced Computing?

A – Thanks for your interest, the nine-page application document and instructions can be found under “Application Details” where it says, “Click here to download and view the full details of the application.”