



Prostate Cancer Foundation

2026 PCF TACTICAL Awards (Therapy ACceleration To Intercept CAncer Lethality)

Targeting Prostate Cancer with Lethal Potential

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT / FULL APPLICATIONS

IMPORTANT: Applying for a PCF TACTICAL Award (Therapy ACceleration To Intercept CAncer Lethality) involves a 2-stage process. PCF requires a Letter of Intent (LOI), followed by full application submission upon our invitation.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for LOIs for PCF TACTICAL Awards from qualified teams of investigators from academic and community institutions that will directly contribute to improved outcomes for patients with prostate cancer with lethal potential. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation and transformative potential in applications received. PCF seeks high-risk, currently unfunded projects from academic and community research institutions around the world. TACTICAL Awards provide \$5 - \$10 Million U.S.D. per award over 3–5 years.

PCF TACTICAL Awards:

PCF seeks applications for currently unfunded, large-scale multi-disciplinary team science research projects that will directly contribute to reducing death and suffering from prostate cancer, and will deliver transformative and tangible outcomes in the 3-5-year funding period. This includes basic, translational, clinical, and community-based research projects focused on strategies to prevent prostate cancer metastasis, morbidity, or mortality, which addresses major unmet needs in a transformative way.

Research proposals submitted in consideration for this award should, if successful, provide high impact to the field and focus on tangibly overcoming a specific challenging scientific question or major unmet clinical need. “Small-step” or incremental proposals, and projects that do not address lethal or potentially-lethal prostate cancer such as diagnostics and treatments for low-risk localized disease, are usually non-competitive. Highly innovative basic science programs will be carefully considered, but priority will be given to “bench to bedside” translational research proposals with strong potential to deliver near term benefit to patients. **Preference will be given to teams able to deliver on major aims within the funding period.**

Clinical trial direct costs are not allowed; however, correlative research to support high impact clinical trials for advanced prostate cancer is encouraged. IRB submission and preferably approval is desired at time of application.

Institutional indirect costs are not allowed.

PCF TACTICAL Team: TACTICAL Award teams are multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional teams that work synergistically on a project with a shared primary vision and transformative high-impact goal.

- Teams must be composed of at least five (5) investigators from non-profit academic research centers or community organizations, including two young investigators, capable of providing unique scientific expertise to the solution of this significant problem in prostate cancer research. To qualify as a young investigator, team members must have a doctoral-level degree and be within six years of completion of their terminal degree or subsequent mentored academic or clinical training program including postdoctoral or clinical fellowships.
- Cross-disciplinary teams that are diverse and inclusive will be favored.
- Investigators from for-profit companies and government institutions can be included as collaborative team members, but cannot receive any funds from this Award mechanism. VA investigators are excluded from this exception, and can be included as funded team members, including as Principal Investigator.

Notable changes from prior PCF TACTICAL Award RFAs: This year, PCF TACTICAL Awards applicants are not required to have team members representing at least four different institutions, although multi-institutional teams are preferred. Additionally, the scope of research proposals solicited has been expanded to include any large-scale projects with transformative potential, and is not restricted to projects that aim to produce a new treatment for advanced prostate cancer by the end of the funding period.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Guidelines: A Letter of Intent is required in advance of full application submission.

1. Download the **Letter of Intent** PDF form at <https://pcf.org/open-rfas/>. Included in the form are fields for a proposal title, short statement of originality, abstract (3700 characters, ~ 500 words), team member details, 3-page proposal, 2-pages maximum for references, and organization details. The default text size is 9 pt. Arial font. **The LOI form should be completed when opened in Adobe; completing the form using another program may result in blank fields.**
2. The Primary Investigator appends a PDF of their NIH biosketch to the back of their completed LOI form by combining PDFs. Rename the PDF as follows: **(Your Last Name) 2026 TACTICAL Award LOI**. Do not append additional supporting materials to your LOI form. We prefer that the form fields remain active after combining with the biosketch.
3. Submit your completed LOI form by emailing it to lettersofintent@pcf.org using the following subject line: **(Your Full Name): 2026 TACTICAL Award LOI**. You will receive a confirmation email from lettersofintent@pcf.org within 24 hours (Mon-Fri only). Please allow emails from this sender.

The LOI submission deadline is Monday, March 16, 2026.
***** In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. *****

A team of advisors will review LOIs to determine the strength of each submitted proposal and alignment with the PCF mission. You will receive notification by email from lettersofintent@pcf.org by **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, indicating if you have been selected to advance to the next stage of application. Approved applicants will then be invited to submit a full application.

Full Application Guidelines (Invitation Required):

Application Form: To be completed online by the Principal Investigator under their name at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>. Names and contact information for all team members listed in the Research Proposal must be added to the online application. Collaborators who are not team members but will collaborate on the project, wrote letters of recommendation or otherwise contributed to the application must also be listed on the online application.

Research Proposal: The following sections are required for application to the PCF TACTICAL Award. With the exception of the Abstracts (fill-in field), the Research Proposal and all supporting documents listed below should be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please note that item 7 should be submitted only if your project requires a clinical trial and item 8 is optional.

1. **A scientific abstract** concisely describing the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach and anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required (fill-in form field).
2. **Lay Abstract (500 words maximum):** Concisely describe the background & rationale, major project goals and outcomes and impact of the project if successful (fill-in form field). This abstract may be used for fundraising efforts and will be posted on PCF.org for awarded applications. Please follow the required formatting and tips in the Smart Simple application portal.
3. **Statement of Originality (1-page limit):** This statement delineates how the work is first-in-field and original, and is currently unfunded. PCF seeks new and never-before tested ideas, and will not fund ongoing investigations or incremental research.
4. **Research Proposal:** The narrative text and any preliminary data supporting a 3-5-year research proposal, limited to **15 pages**, plus a list of references cited (references not to be counted toward the 15-page limit). Inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify the size of the study is mandatory.
5. **NIH Biosketch:** Please submit a NIH Biographical Sketch for each investigator (5-page max), including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (include award or grant type, project title, funding source, amount, and beginning and end dates of funding). NIH Biosketches for all investigators (except collaborators) on the team award proposal should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document.
6. **Budget page(s):** Please include an annual budget breakout grid and budget justification for the proposal. The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms like PHS 398; however, use of these forms is not mandatory. All PCF TACTICAL Award PIs and Co-PIs who attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat must use funds from the PCF TACTICAL Award to cover travel and registration expenses. Attendance by at least one member of the team each year is required for the duration of the award. Institutional indirect costs are not allowed. Clinical trial direct costs are not allowed.
7. **Clinical trial protocols, and a timeline for activation of clinical investigations,** if applicable, such as for proposals involving clinical trial correlative research.
8. **Supplemental Information:** Supplemental information in support of the application such as previous highly relevant publications or accepted manuscripts, letters of collaboration and letters of support can be uploaded as a single PDF document.

All research activities (including subcontracted activities) involving vertebrate animals and human subjects including specimen acquisition that will be conducted using PCF funding must be approved by the appropriate institutional and governmental oversight committees. **At the time of the award, the approved (IRB, IACUC, FDA, etc.) protocols ready for activation must be submitted before the application will be funded. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.** Compliance with current institutional and governmental guidelines and laws for research involving recombinant DNA, human stem cells, human fetal tissues, controlled substances, as well as conflict of interest and scientific misconduct is also required.

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after April 1, 2026, to complete the online full application form and attach the PDFs.

The deadline for full application submissions is Monday, June 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)
***** In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. *****

Full applications received from investigators who have not been invited will be automatically declined.

Funding decisions will be made following PCF's peer and programmatic review process. Reporting requirements, the budget process, and PCF's Intellectual Property Policy will be discussed at the time of announcement of the awards. **All TACTICAL Award recipients are required to submit progress reports on time to receive additional payments.** Award activation dates are ongoing throughout the fiscal year.

Key Dates:

- March 16, 2026: LOI due (by email)
- April 1, 2026: Applicants notified of whether they have been selected to advance to full application stage
- June 16, 2026, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time: Full Proposals due (online)

***** In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to any deadlines. *****

Please direct questions to applications@pcf.org.