

Imaging Scientists Cycle 2 RFA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If your question is not addressed here, please e-mail: sciencegrants@chanzuckerberg.com.

ELIGIBILITY

Can foreign academic institutions apply?

Yes. Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign nonprofit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government. Please be sure to review the RFA for additional eligibility criteria.

Can one institution or imaging core submit more than one application?

An imaging core may submit only one application, but different imaging cores from a single institution may submit separate applications.

Do applications have to come from existing imaging centers or can they be used to establish a new one?

This funding opportunity is open only to existing imaging core facilities and is not for creating new imaging cores.

Who qualifies as an imaging scientist?

The expectation is that imaging scientists are full-time staff of an imaging core. This RFA aims to support staff at imaging centers that serve a broad community at a university or research institution. Imaging cores are the typical facilities, and full-time staff at the core facility would be the typical candidates. A faculty member at an academic department conducting their own independent research is typically not within the scope of this program.

Does this grant fund only new positions or can it be applied to existing positions?

This grant can be applied to existing positions or fund new positions.

Can we use grant funds to hire a new imaging scientist or do they have to be employed at our institution?

The Imaging Program's scientist should be currently employed at the institution submitting the application. In certain circumstances, the Imaging Scientist may not meet this requirement. Please specify the circumstances on the biosketch or contact sciencegrants@chanzuckerberg.com to discuss.

My funding structure in my country works differently than the United States and my employment is at a different location than the imaging core. Am I eligible?

We understand that funding structures and mechanisms vary by country. Please have the imaging scientist apply with the organization that they would be receiving the funds through if awarded and describe the funding situation in the biosketch or budget sections of the application.

I work in two cores. Am I eligible as an imaging scientist?

Staff that are shared between multiple cores may be eligible. The funding for this arrangement needs to be explained in the budget section.

Is an application from an individual lab eligible?

No. This RFA aims to support staff at imaging centers that serve a broad community at a university or research institution. Imaging cores are the typical facilities and full-time staff at the core would be the typical candidates. A typical faculty member at an academic department conducting their own independent research is not within the scope of this program. Applications from individual labs will not be considered even if the lab collaborates with other laboratories.

What is the latest possible start date for this grant?

The earliest start date of this grant is January 1, 2021, and if selected, we will mutually agree on a start date within a few months of the earliest start date.

Would a multi-core proposal be eligible?

Yes, we would accept proposals that combine multiple cores.

Is this grant only for large cores?

No, small and large cores can apply. That said, small cores can apply, but we will be evaluating cores on the number of scientists and projects they help serve.

Can a postdoc apply?

The imaging program's scientist must be currently employed at the institution submitting the application and should be mainly working at the core interacting with other scientists. If those are both the case, a postdoc may be eligible to apply.

I am in the process of hiring an imaging scientist; are they eligible?

Yes, as long as the scientist has accepted an offer of employment by the submission date, they would be eligible to apply as the applicant.

SCOPE

Is Cryo-EM acceptable for this call?

Yes, Cryo-EM is acceptable.

Is this call open to all modalities of imaging or just microscopy?

This call is open to all modalities of imaging.

How do you define an imaging core for the purpose of this grant?

Institutional cores are the primary target of this program, although we realize that the term 'core' has multiple interpretations. An imaging core is a centralized hub of access to advanced imaging technologies with multiple imaging systems run by a dedicated specialist. The candidate must serve a broad community at the institution, not just a single lab. We realize that some imaging centers do not serve the entire institution; their breadth will be evaluated by reviewers as they consider the impact of the center.

BUDGET

Can extra budget be used for supplies or equipment?

No, funds can only be allocated for the salary of the imaging scientist and a modest travel/teaching budget. The awarded amount will depend on the salary amount requested, which should be consistent with pay scales at your institution. Equipment can only be purchased if it is used for teaching purposes and should be justified in the budget section of the application.

Can I split the allocation for salary amongst multiple personnel?

No. The purpose of this grant is to pay the salary of only the imaging scientist (one person), with no more than \$200,000 per year requested for salary and fringe benefits of the Imaging Scientist (fringe benefits include paid time off, health insurance, etc.), \$20,000 per year for teaching and travel expenses, and 15% indirect costs for the institution.