Matching Grants Research Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Corridor’s Matching Grant Research Program?

The Florida High Tech Corridor Council (Corridor) Matching Grant Research Program (MGRP) rewards Florida-based high technology companies that partner with USF researchers. Matching funds are available from $10,000 to $150,000 and require a private sector partner providing at least a 2:1 cost match investment (cash and in-kind).

2. Where do the matching funds come from?

The matching funds come from the Corridor, which is funded by the Florida Legislature. For more information about the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, please visit www.floridahightech.com.

3. Where do I go to see if an award is eligible for a matching grant?

Contact USF CONNECT to discuss the eligibility of your proposal.

4. How many grants are awarded each year?

It is expected that USF CONNECT will award 25-35 grants per year. Grants are awarded until all funds have been exhausted.

5. If I am a faculty researcher and have a potential industry sponsor, where do I go?

Contact USF CONNECT to discuss the eligibility of the proposal and scope of work.

USF CONNECT-Corridor Program
3802 Spectrum Blvd, Suite 100
Tampa, Florida 33612
813.974.1082 / rsch-matchinggrants@usf.edu

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6. What is the first step in applying for a matching grant?

Contact USF CONNECT to discuss the eligibility of the proposal and scope of work.

7. If I am an industry sponsor and do not yet have a USF researcher to partner with, who do I contact?

Contact USF CONNECT so that we may try to match you with the most appropriate researcher.

8. When do I contact USF CONNECT?

You are highly encouraged to contact USF CONNECT at least three to four months prior to the start of the project to discuss eligibility. Postponing your first contact with USF CONNECT may delay the availability of matching funds to help start the project.

9. What is the duration of the research project?

Since the match comes from state funds, the project duration should not extend beyond one year.

10. Does the sponsor have to be located in Florida?

Yes, since the match comes from state funds, the sponsor must be a Florida for-profit high-tech company, located in one of the 23 counties supported by the Corridor.

11. What are the Intellectual Property requirements for the agreement?

The intellectual property terms in the sponsored research agreement must be in accordance with USF Policy 0-300. Agreements that do not coincide with USF Policy 0-300 will not be considered for a match.

12. What is the maximum award that can be matched by the Florida High Tech Corridor Council?

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USF CONNECT will award up to $150,000 in matching funds annually for exceptional collaborative research proposals.

13. Is overhead taken out of the matching funds?

No, the matching funds are exempt from overhead. Only industry cash is subject to overhead. Projects requesting matching funds are subject to the University’s overhead rate.

14. What are the requirements for the Matching Funds budget?

The budget must include graduate student support for at least one student for the duration of the project in the form of tuition and/or salaries and may include faculty salaries, equipment and supplies. Items such as travel, food and entertainment may not be included.

15. What are the in-kind requirements for the seed grant?

The matching grant requires $1 in-kind contribution for each $1 Corridor cash match requested. Examples of in-kind support include: staff time spent on the project working with faculty and students, industry lab and equipment usage, and supplies.

16. What documentation do I need in order to be awarded the match?

In order to be awarded the match, the following documentation is required. Please contact USF CONNECT for templates.

a) An approved budget detailing how the matching funds will be expended
b) Scope of Work for the project
c) Letter of support from the sponsor
d) An executed research agreement from the USF Sponsored Research

17. How long does it take for a matching grant to be awarded?

Once all required documentation has been received by USF CONNECT, the proposal is sent to the Corridor review team for approval. Once approval is rendered, the match should be available within 30 days.

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20. How will I know the match has been approved?

Once the Corridor has approved the match, the sponsor will receive an award notice stating that the match has been approved.

21. Who receives the grant?

The industry sponsor is awarded the grant. However, the USF researcher has sole accountability for the USF research account.

22. Is there a final report that must be submitted after the project is complete?

Yes, a detailed final report must be submitted to USF CONNECT no later than July 31st after the award is made. If the project will continue past June 30, then an interim report should be filed no later than July 31st with a final report being due within one month of the conclusion of the project. For more information about what must be included in the report, please contact USF CONNECT.

23. What are the conditions for subsequent awards?

An industry sponsor may work with a faculty researcher on multiple and subsequent projects, however, the award will be contingent upon the receipt of a report on current and/or completed projects.