



Siteman Investment Program Research Development Awards

Program Overview

The Siteman Investment Program (SIP) provides funding to support innovative, high-impact cancer research across the continuum of discovery, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. This program is designed to advance promising ideas with strong potential for future external funding and meaningful clinical or community impact.

Purpose and Scope

- Advance the most promising ideas that will allow physicians to predict, prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure all types of cancers more effectively and with fewer or no side effects, for example, by tailoring therapies to a patient's individual genetic makeup or the biology of their disease.
- Accelerate discoveries to test and verify pioneering options for fighting cancer and translate clinical findings into groundbreaking, practical applications
- SIP RDA has a strong interest in funding recently well scored, but unfunded, NIH applications.
 - SIP RDA is meant to fund projects that have excellent potential for NIH/NCI funding (e.g., R01, SPORE, PPG) but need additional data
- Projects directly responsive to addressing health disparities in SCC's catchment area are encouraged and will receive strong consideration

Available Funding Categories

Category	Primary Focus	Funding
COE Supplement	Community-engaged research addressing cancer burden in the SCC catchment area.	Up to \$50,000 over 1 year
See individual RFAs for other SIP RDA categories below on the SIP RDA website.		
Team Science	Multi-project collaborative programs preparing for NIH/NCI submissions within 12–24 months.	Up to \$800,000 over 2 years
Clinical Trial	New institutional investigator-initiated, interventional trials unable to secure external funding	Up to \$300,000 over 3 years
Pre-R01-General	Pilot, secondary analysis, technology development, and other hypothesis-driven research projects with preliminary data.	Up to \$200,000 over 2 years
Pre-R01-Prevention & Control	Research addressing cancer prevention, survivorship, implementation science, policy, genetics, and cancer control in the catchment area.	Up to \$200,000 over 2 years
Pre-R01-University of Missouri Collaboration	Collaborative research projects between WashU and University of Missouri faculty.	Up to \$200,000 over 2 years
Pre R01-Head & Neck	Translational or clinical research focused on head and neck cancers.	Up to \$200,000 over 2 years
Genome Integrity Development Award (GIDA)	Pilot projects in genome integrity conducted with Center for Genome Integrity (CGI) collaborators.	Up to \$100,000 over 2 years
Partner Prevention & Control Interventional Clinical Trial Grants	Prevention and control intervention trials conducted with at least one SCC catchment-area health system partner.	Up to \$100,000 over 2 years
Martin Glioblastoma Research Fund Awards	Glioblastoma research across disciplines.	Up to \$50,000 over 1 year

SIP RDA is supported by a variety of sources including: The Cancer Frontier Fund at The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital, which includes gifts from Pedal the Cause's annual bike challenge, The Foundation's annual Illumination Gala, and donations throughout the year; the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Research Fund; Swim Across America – St. Louis; and various philanthropic gifts via Siteman Cancer Center.

Siteman Investment Program Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) Supplement Mechanism 2026 Cycle 2 Request for Applications (RFA)

A. Overview

Available funding: **up to \$50,000 over 1 year** (may request up to \$100,000 directs with pre-approval as outlined below)

Timeline:

Date of announcement	July 23, 2026
REQUIRED Statement of Intent due by 4:00 PM CST	August 20, 2026
Full applications due by 4:00 pm CST	September 24, 2026
Project Start Date	January 2027

B. Purpose

- To provide supplemental funding to support community-engaged research to address the cancer burden within Siteman's catchment. All cancer-related research topics are eligible including basic science, clinical, population-based, and intervention research.
 - The COE supplement funding opportunity may supplement any current grant/funding award, including but not limited to SIP RDAs, NCI/NIH grants, private foundation awards, and other institutional pilot awards. Multi-project awards (e.g., SPOREs, Team Science SIP RDAs) may request supplemental funding for each project funded by the overall parent award.
 - **NEW:** Applicants may now apply for the COE supplement to parent grants for which they are not the PI, provided they submit a letter of support for the proposal from the parent grant PI.
- Produce preliminary data to provide a basis for future Siteman Investment Program (SIP)/NCI/NIH applications (e.g., R01, R21) and/or,
- Address health disparities in SCC's catchment area.
 - The full list of catchment area priorities based on community feedback and cancer burden includes the following: breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, HPV, tobacco cessation, and cancer survivorship.
 - For details on the cancer burden and social determinants of health for the catchment area, please consult the Community Dashboard, part of the [Siteman Cancer Center DASHboards \(Data and Statistics Hub\)](#).
 - For additional guidance on the needs and priorities of the catchment, please reach out to Dr. Bettina Drake, Associate Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, at drakeb@wustl.edu.
- Accelerate dissemination and implementation research that moves evidence-based cancer practices into clinical and community settings.
 - For more information about research collaborations with community partners within the catchment area, please contact Katie Hoey, Program Manager of External Partnerships at hoey@wustl.edu



C. Additional Guidance and Resources

- Investigators new to community-engaged research are eligible to apply but are strongly encouraged to reach out to the COE team (contact Sarah Van Vickle-Chavez, sarahv@wustl.edu) with questions.
 - They are also strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with at least the following resources to determine if their research project is a good fit for this category:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. [*Principles of Community Engagement*](#). 3rd ed. Published January 13, 2025.
 - NOTE: Chapter 2 highlights the ten Principles of Community Engagement and serves as a “critical framework for ensuring that all parties remain mindful of each other’s values, differences, and agendas.”
 - PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) [*Foundational Expectations for Partnerships in Research*](#). Published February 2, 2024.
- PIs are highly encouraged to meet with the [SCC Patient Research Advisory Board](#) (PRAB), or an equivalent group, prior to, or within 2 months of receipt of funding to discuss and obtain feedback related to the study.

D. Eligibility

- **Faculty Appointment:** The PI must have a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor level* WashU (WU).
 - ***NEW:** Faculty members at the Instructor level are no longer eligible to submit to SIP RDA. Instructors are encouraged to pursue funding from the [ACS IRG \(American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant\)](#) and the [Siteman Travel Awards](#)
- **Siteman Membership:** The contact PI submitting the application must either a) be an approved Siteman Cancer Center member or b) have submitted an acceptable Siteman Cancer Center membership application by the application deadline.
 - Questions regarding membership should be directed to sitemanmembership@wustl.edu.
- **SCC Research Program:** The contact PI may be a member of ANY research program at Siteman Cancer Center
- **5% Minimum Effort:** The contact PI AND Co-PI(s) (if applicable) must each have a minimum of 5% effort dedicated to the project. Any proposed effort lower than 5% should be discussed with SCC administration prior to application submission. Salary does not have to be included in the budget (i.e. may be cost-shared), but the PI and co-PI(s) must have protected time available to dedicate to the SIP RDA project
- **Info for Current SIP RDA Awardees:** A faculty member currently funded in the role of contact PI by a SIP RDA is not eligible to submit an application as contact PI unless (1) their current award will end by the scheduled start date or (2) their current award is in a no-cost extension.
- **Multiple SIP Submissions per Cycle:** A faculty member may submit only one application as contact PI per cycle unless their prospective project is a MU/WU Pre-R01 project or a submission to the Clinical Trial mechanism AND the science is distinct. A PI is allowed to be a co-investigator, or consultant, on any number of submissions.
- **Distinct Science:** Please note that SIP RDA will not fund the same science multiple times. If a faculty member has received SIP funding previously (or any other internal funding from Siteman Cancer Center such as a Catalyst Award), they must clearly demonstrate that the science of the proposed project is new and distinct from the previously funded project(s).

E. Terms of the Award

- Total project period may not exceed 1 year and total requested amount for direct costs for the entire project period may not exceed \$50,000.

- Applicants may request up to \$100,000 directs with pre-approval from the Associate Director of COE, Dr. Bettina Drake (drakeb@wustl.edu).
- Total number of supplemental awards are dependent upon available funding and scientific value. SCC priorities are considered in final funding decisions.
- Siteman expects that the grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the term of the award. No-cost extensions are discouraged but will be considered with compelling justification. All unspent funds at the end of the grant period will be returned to the sponsor.
- All awardees will be expected to adhere to progress reporting requirements.
- No funding will be released, and no aspect of the project can begin prior to receipt of appropriate institutional compliance approvals (e.g. PRMS, IRB, IACUC, etc.). **Projects without necessary regulatory approvals in place 180 days following receipt of the Notice of Award will be reviewed by SCC leadership.** This may result in a change of award terms or forfeiture of funding.
- Awardees may request adjustments to their SCC role/responsibilities, percent effort, or award period for personal or family situations including, but not limited to, parental leave, child care, elder care, medical conditions, or a disability.

F. Budget

Expenditures Allowed:

- Salary support for investigators and other relevant faculty collaborators or staff. The current NIH salary cap must be used where applicable. This funding mechanism is designed primarily to support staff, not faculty, effort. While a modest amount of faculty support is allowed and may be supported, faculty effort may be reduced/eliminated when final funding assessments are made
- Research supplies
- Per diem charges for patients if part of a clinical study, not reimbursable by standard payment terms
- Technical assistance
- Graduate student/postdoctoral stipends if relevant to the project with detailed justification
- Domestic/foreign travel necessary to carry out proposed project based on institutional travel policies
- Other expenses such as lab and core fees, pathology, imaging, data analysis, etc.
- Consultant costs
- Publications costs not to exceed \$2,000 across the total project period
- Travel and/or registration costs to attend conferences for academic and community investigators if there are relevant (e.g., health equity, disparities focused) agenda topics (**this is unique to COE category**)

Expenditures NOT Allowed:

- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- Office equipment and supplies
- Computer (including software) and equipment maintenance fees
- Tuition
- Travel not essential to carrying out the proposed research
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Administrative or institutional charges for services normally considered overhead (e.g. space rental, utilities, building maintenance)
- Non-medical or personnel services to patients
- Sub-contracts to institutions not affiliated with Siteman Cancer Center and pre-award costs
- EAB/IAB honorarium and meeting expenses

- Budgeting for the purchase of equipment is unallowable without prior approval from SCC administration. Non-office equipment and/or technology with the intent to design, test, or facilitate a new device must be required for completion of the project and must not be reasonably accessible elsewhere on campus. All requests must include a detailed justification.

G. Application Guidelines

- Submission of the Statement of Intent (SOI) form is required and due by 4:00pm CST on the due date listed on Page 1. The SOI form can be accessed via the [SIP RDA website](#) or by [clicking here](#). The SOI is not formally reviewed and approval to submit a full application is automatic; PIs should not expect or anticipate any further correspondence from Siteman Administration following submission of the SOI.
- Use Arial 11 point font for text.
- Use the NIH PHS 398 forms, unless otherwise indicated. Applicants must follow the NIH guidelines when completing the forms included below. NIH forms can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.
- Applications must include all appropriate sections.
- **Combine all documents into one PDF document and submit via email to Katie Hoey (hoey@wustl.edu) by 4 pm CST on September 24, 2026**
- Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted

H. Application Components

1. [SIP RDA Application Cover Sheet](#) (Updated July 2026)
 - i. SCC requires a description of your research project written in plain language. The purpose of the plain language summary is to provide a clear overview of the research in straightforward, non-technical language to be shared with the sponsors, donors, the general public, and the media. Please steer clear of scientific words in your plain language abstract.
 - The Becker Library offers a variety of services and resources to assist applicants with making written materials easier to understand. For more information, visit [the Becker Health Literacy and Communication webpage](#)
2. **Re-submissions only: response to prior SIP RDA critique** (1 page maximum)
 - i. Resubmissions are encouraged. In these instances, we require a response to prior SIP RDA critiques.
 - It is very important that applicants detail how they have responded to prior critiques. Reviewers will have access to previous critiques and the applicant's response.
3. **Specific Aims and Research Strategy**
 - i. **Specific Aims** (1 page maximum)
 - Describe background, community involvement, and community-prioritized research questions that led to the development of the study
 - Outline and briefly describe the aims of the study
 - ii. **Research Strategy** (6 pages maximum)
 - Start each section with the appropriate section heading – Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Community-Informed Research.
 - Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide the full reference in the Bibliography and References Cited section (references section NOT included in the 6-page limit).
 - a. **Significance**
 - i. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
 - ii. Demonstrate the importance of the problem in Siteman's catchment area.



- iii. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- iv. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

b. Innovation

- i. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research, clinical practice, or community- based research paradigms.
- ii. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- iii. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches/methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

c. Approach

- i. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
- ii. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- iii. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work

d. NEW: Community Informed Research

- i. Describe community involvement before and/or throughout the conduct of the study Include a description of the community partners and their role in the study.
- ii. Describe whether community members, patient advocates, and/or community organizations are involved in the research. This may be in idea generation, project planning, study conduct, etc. This does not include the accrual of community members in the study itself.
- iii. Describe how the study will have an impact on Siteman's catchment area.

4. Recruitment & Retention Strategy (if applicable/1 page maximum)

- i. State your planned enrollment, including demographics. Describe your planned or current recruitment strategies to ensure a representative sample that meets your accrual goals. Please include the number of potential patients seen at Siteman Cancer Center and the partner organization per year and the number of those patients needed to meet your recruitment goals.
 - o To obtain the above data, please contact Katie Hoey at hoey@wustl.edu and Courtney Harriss at courtney.harriss@wustl.edu

5. Plans for Future Research (1 page maximum)

- i. Discuss how findings will lead to future research (e.g., subsequent trial, external funding) at the completion of this project.

6. Research Team (1 page maximum)

- i. Explain how the expertise of the research team will contribute to the success of the project. Include the expertise of the PI and scientific collaborators as well as community members, patient advocates, and/or community organizations that are involved in the research.

7. NIH Biosketches for All Key Personnel ([Instructions and Samples](#))

8. Budget Form ([PHS 398 Form](#) Page 4 and 5)

- i. Budget Justification: A detailed budget justification is required. For a list of allowable / unallowable costs, see pages 3 and 4.

- ii. Facilities and Administrative (F&A)/Indirect Costs: Do not include indirect costs at time of submission. Based on the funding source, indirect costs may be added post-award.

9. Bibliography and References Cited

- i. **NEW:** It is very important to cite references that support the proposed project's methodology. Investigators who are new to community-engaged research are strongly encouraged to review the following resources:
 - o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. [Principles of Community Engagement](#). 3rd ed. Published January 13, 2025.
 - o PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) [Foundational Expectations for Partnerships in Research](#). Published February 2, 2024.

10. Compliance Document(s)

- i. Include a page indicating the status of all applicable compliance approvals as listed on the cover sheet (e.g., IRB, PRMC) or, if the approvals are already in place, include copies of the approval letters. Funds will not be allocated and no aspect of the project can begin (including non-human subject research components) without documentation of required approvals. If no compliance is needed, please include a page stating approvals are not applicable.
 - o An optional **Protection of Human Subjects** section (1 page max) may be included for projects that propose human subjects research and require IRB approval. This section should include a brief description of the involvement of subjects, assessment of risks, protection against risks, potential benefits, and the importance of the knowledge to be gained. This page should be included as an appendix document. It is not necessary for this to be included for projects only utilizing de-identified samples.

11. Letter(s) of Support

- i. If the COE supplement applicant is not the PI of the parent grant, a letter of support MUST be submitted from the PI.
- ii. At least one LOS from community partners involved in the research project.
- iii. If COE funding will supplement support from other sources (e.g. other WUSTL departments/divisions, etc.), support from the department and/or division must be detailed in a letter of support.

12. Parent Grant

- i. COE Supplements are designed to expand the impact and enhance funded research projects through community-engaged, disparities-focused sub-aims. Provide active* "parent" grant details including grant number, funding agency, project period, abstract, and research narrative.

* If the parent grant is a SIP award, a COE supplement may be submitted up to six months after expiration date.

I. Review Process

All applications will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of faculty and community experts. Proposals will be evaluated on whether they would have a major impact in developing, implementing, or disseminating innovative and effective interventions to prevent, reduce, or eliminate cancer disparities and advance health equity across the catchment.

For any questions, please contact:
 Katie Hoey, Program Manager, External Partnerships
 Email: hoey@wustl.edu