

Frequently Asked Questions - Core Facilities Program

Q1: Is there an example of a “Model contract,” demand for bioinformatics and genomics, easy to use, pre-screened.

A1: Yes, the Center for Optoelectronics and Optical Communications has one, [Dr. Glenn Boreman](#) has shared an example of a [“model contract.”](#)

Q2:How should Chairs navigate the cost share? Are the College's involved in this process? Is it expected that Colleges fund the cost share?

A2: Chairs should consider what they think is most appropriate for their situation, it could be a mix of faculty PIFA accounts, as well as support from the department and college.

Q3: A lot of departments have equipment, what's the incentive to share the equipment?

A3: This program may be attractive to units that do not have the initial resources needed to mount a financially sustainable program for maintaining their equipment/facilities. Resources from units may go further when the costs are shared.

Q4: Academic affairs supported contracts historically, will that continue?

A4: Much of that continues. [David Gray](#) is a contact for more information.

Q5: The solicitation makes reference to “compliance”...compliance with what?

A5: This refers to compliance with financial aspects (e.g., charging fees) as per university policies and federal Uniform Guidance.

Q6: We currently have equipment, would like to share, but we have no time, no resources with which to share.

A6: Funding from this solicitation can help for the resources needed.

Q7: Could this be used for “Makerspace”?

A7: Perhaps, although that might be more difficult to describe in terms of active/future research activity.

Q8: What is a core facility?

A8: Working Definition: A centralized shared research resource and service unit that provides access to instruments, equipment, advanced technologies, expertise, and other services to all

faculty and student researchers. A core facility is a discrete unit within an institution with dedicated personnel (e.g., technicians), equipment, and space for operations. A portion of the operational costs of the facility is recovered through user fees that are charged to research grants and internal/institutional accounts (charge-back) and to external users (fee-for-service). See [Carolyn Aguiar](#) for a document with more details.

Q9: We already have equipment, but would like to develop into a core facility. But eligibility says you need a full time staff.

A9: You can still apply, and list what the needs are to build the core facility in terms of staff or other resources.

Q10: How does this work, how are funds intended to be used?

A10: As with all internal funds, they are meant to be catalytic - strengthening the extent to which external funds can be obtained to support a facility. In the case of core facilities, it may take a year or two to become financially viable.

Q11: How much money? How many facilities?

A11: Approximate dollar amount limited at \$1M this year, with similar investments in the following two years. The number of facilities depends on the size of the requests and their competitiveness.

Q12: Does the staff member have to be 100% of the time?

A12: No, but they have to have enough time to professionally manage the facility.

Q13: Why do we need to list six faculty, how will you evaluate this?

A13: We want to know the users and their past funding. Goal is to understand relevance. Doesn't have to be 6, could be fewer.

Q14: What about basic facility oriented requirements, heating, cooling, etc.

A14: Yes, be aware of other potential facility/construction costs. Be mindful of electricity requirements, consult applicable lab manager(s).

Q15: Can you propose an existing set of equipment, or does it have to be new?

A15: It can be existing equipment that needs to be updated or incorporated into the core facility model, inclusive of a business plan.

Q16: What about research disciplines that don't generate much revenue?

A16: This might not be the best program to meet that need.

Q17: Is this for educational equipment

A17: It is intended for research equipment that may have relevance to the educational mission.