

SCI-TBI Frequently Asked and Technical Questions

Last Updated March 7, 2025

Q: Can I apply to a Tier 3 project if I don't have any concurrent funding applications in place?

A: No. In order to be eligible, a Tier 3 SCI-TBI proposal must already have federal/industry funding proposal(s) in process.

Q: Can a consultant be a part of the Senior/Key Personnel?

A: Yes.

Q: If I received project funding in the past that was cut due to a lack of available funds, can I reapply this year for the portion of the project that was cut?

A: Yes, you may apply for parts of your project that were cut in prior years due to a lack of funding. In your proposal, please explain how this aspect of your project connects with its larger aims/goals, and how it improves the overall quality of the project. Also keep in mind any feedback that you may have received on this portion of your project during the initial review.

Q: Do you give feedback on proposed project ideas?

A: No, once the RFP is released, we cannot give feedback on project ideas. However, we can help you determine if your project is eligible for funding based on the guiding statute language.

Q: Do you encourage collaboration between institutions?

A: Yes, we encourage collaboration between institutions both inside and outside the state of Minnesota. We strongly suggest that applicants establish formal partnerships in advance of proposal submission.

Q: Are subcontracts allowed? If so, where is it included on the budget form?

A: Yes, subcontracts are permitted. You may include subcontracts in the "Consultant Cost" line. Please include the name of the institution that you are subcontracting with on that line as well.

Q: We plan on subcontracting with another institution. Are we allowed to add indirect costs for subcontracts, in addition to our own indirect costs?

A: The total allowable indirect cost is 8% of Personnel (Salaries/Fringe), which would not include indirect costs for consultants/subcontracts.

Q: We plan on subcontracting with another institution. Do we need to submit Affirmative Action and tax forms for our partner-institution in addition to our own?

A: You are only required to submit documents on behalf of the primary institution, or the institution that is acting as the fiscal agent for the project.

Q: Can researchers (with PhDs) apply for a grant if they are not also a faculty member, resident, or post-doctoral associate? If so, do they need to list a faculty member as co-PI on the proposal?

A: Researchers are permitted to apply even if they are not considered faculty, residents, or post-docs. This has been consistent throughout the grant program's brief history. While not required, it may strengthen a proposal if they were to submit as a co-PI with faculty oversight.

Q: I currently have an active project that utilizes SCI-TBI program funding from a past competition. The contract expiration date is approaching. Would requesting an extension preclude me from applying for a grant this year?

A: There is no proposal scoring criteria that corresponds to needing/requesting a contract extension for current projects. The reviewers evaluate proposals based on the actual proposed project submitted with the background/context provided in the by the applicant.