

# KYNETIC Product Development Grant

## Request for Applications (RFA): Cycle 4



### **Background:**

The [REACH](#) (Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub) program is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative that has created five new proof-of-concept product development hubs. The goal of the program is to accelerate the translation of groundbreaking innovations to benefit human health into commercial products that improve patient care and enhance health. Kentucky's REACH hub is KYNETIC (Kentucky Network for Innovation & Commercialization).

[KYNETIC](#) will accelerate translation of academic innovations into biomedical products across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Led by the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development on behalf of participating public universities and community colleges within Kentucky, KYNETIC will administer \$650,000 per year for 4 years to support product development projects. In addition to funding translational research, KYNETIC will provide commercialization-related education and training, as well as feedback from various experts, including the NIH and their partners (see <https://ncai.nhlbi.nih.gov/ncai/resources/other>).

The KYNETIC program is not a traditional grant program, it is product-focused and requires business-case and project management. Applicants who are invited to submit a full application will work with project managers and/or mentors to develop a product development plan and project timeline. For projects that are awarded funding, the outlined milestones must be met in order to maintain eligibility to compete for additional funding in subsequent cycles.

### **Important Dates:**

<b>Pre-applications due:</b>	<b>August 16, 2021 by 5:00 PM (Eastern Time)</b>
Full applications invited:	Early to mid-September 2021*
Full applications due ( <i>by invitation only</i> ):	Mid-October 2021*
Full application pitch presentations:	Late October/Early November 2021*
Anticipated award start/end dates:	January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

*\*Exact dates to be determined*

### **Eligibility:**

- Open to faculty, staff, trainees, and students at:

Eastern Kentucky University	Northern Kentucky University
Kentucky Community & Technical College System	University of Kentucky
Kentucky State University	University of Louisville
Morehead State University	Western Kentucky University
Murray State University	

## **Eligibility (continued):**

- Non-faculty applicants must identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their application. Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) are permitted (up to 3). All personnel (including faculty sponsors) who are listed on an application must be in agreement to participate and to submit the application.
- Applications must focus on the development of products/technologies that have **the potential to improve patient care or enhance human health**. There are no specific disease requirements, and all types of products (e.g., therapeutics, diagnostics, devices, tests, software) are eligible.
- Products, technologies, and/or ideas should **both**:
  - 1) originate from within one of the participating public universities/community colleges
  - 2) either (a) have existing intellectual property protection (e.g., patent, copyright, trademark) or (b) be eligible for intellectual property protection. Technologies that are already licensed to a company are not eligible.
- Disclosure of projects/technologies to an applicant's respective technology transfer office is not required in order to submit a pre-application; however, it will be required prior to the submission of a KYNETIC full application (if invited).
- Clinical trials ([by NIH definition](#)) are not allowed.

## **Budget and duration:**

- Applicants may request up to \$33,333 in direct costs for the 6-month award period (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021) for eligible projects.
- **In Cycle 4, a total of 6 awards will be distributed to investigators as follows:**
  - University of Kentucky (2 awards)
  - University of Louisville (2 awards)
  - Participating regional universities and community and/or technical colleges (2 awards)

*Note: If insufficient numbers of eligible applications are received, the award distribution shown above may be adjusted.*

- Projects that are awarded funding may compete for additional funding in subsequent cycles (up to a maximum of \$200,000 per technology); however, additional funding is not guaranteed.
- Currently funded projects from Cycle 3 that are eligible to compete for additional funding do not need to submit a new pre-application.

## **Review of pre-applications:**

Pre-applications will be reviewed by KYNETIC staff to determine if they are responsive to the RFA and may be excluded if unsuitable for the program.

Responsive pre-applications will be reviewed by the KYNETIC Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) based on various criteria, including scientific merit, clinical relevance, intellectual property position, market potential, time to market, and KYNETIC portfolio diversity. KYNETIC's IAC includes reviewers with scientific, clinical, and/or entrepreneurship expertise from each of the participating universities and the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, as well as reviewers with expertise in intellectual property protection, technology transfer, and/or commercialization.

All applicants who submit a pre-application will be notified of the outcome (invited or not invited to submit a full application) in early to mid-September 2021 and will receive written feedback from the KYNETIC IAC review.

## **Next steps:**

Applicants who are not invited to submit a full application are encouraged to meet with KYNETIC Project Managers to discuss the feedback received from the KYNETIC IAC review, as well as the potential for resubmission and/or areas in which the application could be strengthened.

Applicants who are invited to submit a full application will receive further instructions and information regarding the preparation of their full application and pitch presentation. Submission of a full application will also involve additional training in research commercialization and working with mentors to create a detailed product development plan, including project milestones. Final funding decisions will be made following review by the KYNETIC External Review Board (ERB) and by the NIH Technology Guidance Committee (TGC).

## **Questions and assistance:**

KYNETIC Project Managers can assist you with various aspects of the pre-application preparation, including the review of drafts prior to submission. We encourage informal inquiries about whether an idea or product would be suitable for this program. If needed, we also may be able to help identify a suitable collaborator(s) and/or faculty sponsor (for non-faculty applicants).

Please reach out with any questions related to the KYNETIC grant program or to schedule an appointment to discuss your project/idea or pre-application:

<b>For investigators at:</b>	<b>Please email:</b>
University of Kentucky	<a href="mailto:kynetic@uky.edu">kynetic@uky.edu</a>
University of Louisville	<a href="mailto:kynetic@louisville.edu">kynetic@louisville.edu</a>
Eastern Kentucky University Kentucky Community & Technical College System Kentucky State University Morehead State University Murray State University Northern Kentucky University Western Kentucky University	<b>Both</b> <a href="mailto:kynetic@uky.edu">kynetic@uky.edu</a> <b>and</b> <a href="mailto:kynetic@louisville.edu">kynetic@louisville.edu</a>