



# Request For Applications (RFA)

*KYNETIC Product Development Grant – Cycle #3*

## 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 KY public universities, KYNETIC will administer \$650,000 per year for 4 years to support approximately 13 product development projects per year. 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 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 timeline. Receipt of funding for selected projects will be milestone-driven and KYNETIC staff will monitor project progress. There will be a competitive renewal evaluation (go/no-go decision) about every 6 months and non-progressing projects may be terminated and replaced with new projects.

## Eligibility:

This RFA is open to all faculty, staff, trainees, and students at all participating public Universities and community colleges within Kentucky. Non-faculty applicants must identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their application. Multiple Principal Investigators (up to three) are permitted. Applications must focus on developing products that have the potential to improve patient care or enhance human health. All types of products (e.g. therapeutic, preventative, device, test, software) are eligible. There is no disease-specific requirement. Applications should involve technologies or ideas that originate from within one of the participating public universities or community colleges that have pending intellectual property or are eligible for patent protection, copyright or some other mechanism for intellectual property protection. Technologies that are already licensed to a company are not eligible. Clinical trials ([by NIH definition](#)) are not allowed. Previously funded projects from Cycle 2 are eligible for competitive renewal, but do not need to submit a new pre-application.

## Budget and Duration:

Requests for \$50,000 per project, over a period of 6 months, will be considered. Projects are eligible for competitive renewal every 6 months up to a maximum of \$200,000 per technology.

## Important Dates (anticipated):

Pre-application deadline:	February 15, 2021
Full applications invited:	Approximately March 2, 2021
Full application due:	April 15, 2021 (by invitation only)
Full application presentations:	To be determined (mid-May, 2021)
Award start date:	July 1, 2021 (anticipated)



# Pre-application Instructions

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**Format:** The pre-application must be submitted as a single PDF document consisting of the sections shown in the table below. Please prepare the documents in Word, convert to PDF, and compile into a single PDF document.

Section	Format	Limit
Cover page	Part of fillable pre-application form.	1 page
Demographic information	Part of fillable pre-application form.	No limit
Product description	Part of fillable pre-application form. At least 0.75-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font, and single spacing in main text required.	<b>2 pages</b> (including any figures and tables)
Response to previous reviews (if applicable)	Part of fillable pre-application form. At least 0.75-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font, and single spacing in main text required.	<b>300 words</b> (about half a page)
References cited	Part of fillable pre-application form.	<b>10 references</b>
Other Support	Part of fillable pre-application form.	No limit
<i>OPTIONAL:</i> PI & key personnel biosketch(es)	Any (e.g. NSF, NIH)	5 pages per person

In addition to these application forms, please submit a **non-confidential abstract** (maximum of 250 words) as an editable **Word document**. The abstract may be shared with industry representatives and investors, so please ensure that the abstract does not contain any proprietary information. If you have questions or need assistance composing your abstract, please contact KYNETIC Project Managers: Sarah Andres & Jessica Sharon ([kynetic@louisville.edu](mailto:kynetic@louisville.edu)) or Ashton Miller & Kendra Stenzel ([kynetic@uky.edu](mailto:kynetic@uky.edu)).

**Submission Deadline:** Submit your pre-application as a single PDF file to either [kynetic@louisville.edu](mailto:kynetic@louisville.edu) or [kynetic@uky.edu](mailto:kynetic@uky.edu) by **5:00 PM (Eastern time) on Monday, February 15, 2021**.

**Questions & Assistance:** KYNETIC Project Managers can answer questions about this RFA and assist you with various aspects of the pre-application preparation. We encourage informal inquiries about whether an idea or product would be suitable for this program. If needed, we may be able to help find a suitable collaborator and/or faculty sponsor (for non-faculty applicants). Email [kynetic@louisville.edu](mailto:kynetic@louisville.edu) or [kynetic@uky.edu](mailto:kynetic@uky.edu) with questions or to schedule an appointment to discuss the KYNETIC grant pre-application or your idea.

**Cover page:** Complete the form as indicated.

**Demographics:** Complete the form as indicated.

**Product description:** This section should be 2 pages or less. Answer each question below:

1. Describe the product/idea you are proposing. Does it address an unmet clinical need?
2. Describe the market for this product and any competitive products currently in use or development.

3. How is your product unique and is it patentable? If not patentable, is other proprietary protection likely?
4. In broad terms, how do you plan to use the funds? How would they advance the technology? Describe for the first \$50,000 AND up to \$200,000.
5. Briefly explain any specific expertise and experience the PI and/or team have that will help this project.

**Response to previous reviews:** Indicate if you have previously submitted this project (or a related project) to the KYNETIC program for funding. If you have, please describe briefly how you have addressed any concerns raised in previous reviews, using 300 words or less.

**References cited:** Up to 10 literature references may be listed, but this is optional.

**Other support:** List past, present, and pending support relevant to the proposed product. Or state “none”.

**Biosketches:** A biosketch or resume for the PI and other key personnel may be included, but is optional.

## **Pre-application Review Procedures**

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### **Administrative review of pre-applications:**

The KYNETIC hub staff will review pre-applications to determine if they are responsive to the RFA and may exclude any that are unsuitable for this program.

### **Scientific and commercialization review of pre-applications:**

Responsive pre-applications will be reviewed based on various criteria, including scientific merit, clinical relevance, intellectual property (IP) position, market potential, time to market, and KYNETIC portfolio diversity. Pre-application reviewers will include faculty with scientific, clinical, and/or entrepreneurship expertise, plus Technology Transfer staff who will assess patentability and commercialization potential.

### **Next steps:**

All applicants who submit a pre-application will be notified of the outcome (invited or not invited to submit a full application) on or around March 2, 2021. Those who were not invited will receive a brief description of why their pre-application was not selected and will be encouraged to meet with KYNETIC Project Managers to discuss the possibility of resubmission. Invited applicants will receive further instructions regarding preparation of the full application. Submission of a full application will involve additional training in research commercialization and working with mentors to create a detailed product development plan. While a Research Disclosure Form is not required to submit a pre-application, completion of this form will be required prior to full proposal submission. Final funding decisions will be made following review by the KYNETIC External Review Board (ERB) and by the NIH Technology Guidance Committee (TGC).