



Colorado Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute

2025 CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Overview



Natalie Julie Serkova, Ph.D.
CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Director

Christopher Baker, MD
CMH-Pilot Grant Program Director



Kristen House
CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Administrator



Matt Hickey, Ph.D.
CSU Pilot Grant Program Director



CCTSI Pilot Grant Award Eligibility



- CCTSI Members
- Faculty at CCTSI Partner Institutions

Graduate, undergraduate, postdoctoral students, fellows and PRAs are encouraged to participate in Non-Key Roles.

Underrepresented, female, and minority researchers are particularly urged to apply, as the CCTSI intends to contribute to the creation of a research workforce that is representative of the U.S. population.

CU Anschutz Medical Campus

CU Boulder

CU Denver

Colorado State University

Denver Health

University of Colorado Hospital

Children's Hospital Colorado

National Jewish Hospital

VA Eastern CO Health Care System

Kaiser Permanente Colorado

<https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/aboutus/affiliated-institutions>

<https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding/membership>



Exclusions/ Restrictions

1. An individual may apply in a Key Role on only one application between the CO-/ CMH-/ CE-Pilots. This restriction is not applicable to the TM-Pilots, nor to Non-Key Roles.
2. Key Role individuals on a no-cost extension (NCE) Pilot award are not allowed to apply for the new cycle.
3. Applications proposing to continue the work of a previously funded CCTSI Pilot Grant Project are not allowed.
4. CCTSI Pilot Grant Awards may not be used to support research conducted outside of the United States. However, proposals that use data or samples collected at international sites through other means may be considered for funding if the portion of the work conducted locally occurs at CCTSI Affiliate Institutions.
5. The CTS-Pilot Program **is not designed to fund** “translational research projects” (which are only focused on crossing a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease) that do not also address to some extent a generalizable translational roadblock in **translational science**.



What is new in 2025 Pilot Grant Cycle?

- We are in the new NCATS UM1 Cycle (2023-2029)
- Under the new NCATS guidelines, a pilot project should address overcoming a barrier or roadblock in [translational science](#) as well as a research question
- No-cost extensions will not be allowed for the 2025 award cycle (all projects must be completed by 7/31/2026)



2025 Pilot Grant Cycle Timeline

	CO-Pilots	CMH-Pilots	TM-Pilots
RFA Announcement	11/4/2024	11/4/2024	11/11/2024
Informational Call #1	11/13/2024	11/13/2024	11/18/2024
Letter of Intent Due	12/9/2024	12/9/2024	12/16/2024
Informational Call #2	12/18/2024	12/18/2024	01/06/2025
Application Due Date	01/13/2025	01/13/2025	01/21/2025
2024 Award Cycle	<u>08/01/2025 – 07/31/2026</u>		



Colorado (CO-Pilot) Grant Program

To encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research in clinical and translational medicine focused on improving human health

Basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, outcomes, and health services research

Program Directors

Natalie Serkova, PhD

Matt Hickey, PhD

Award Categories

- Early-Stage Investigator
Diversity Award
- Mentored Faculty
- Junior Faculty
- CSU/ CU Collaboration



Colorado (CO-Pilot) Grant Program

Amount: \$40K (Mentored/ Junior/ Early Career Diversity)
\$50K (CSU/CU Collaboration)

Duration: 1 year

Major goals

- Support junior faculty/ early-stage investigators in their efforts to become an independent PI
- Facilitate developing preliminary data on hypothesis-driven projects to help securing future federal funds
- Foster new collaborations among established CSU/ CU investigators



Child and Maternal Health (CMH-Pilot) Grant Program

Cross-disciplinary and collaborative research focused on children of all ages as well as pregnant women and mothers of newborn and young infants that will ultimately improve child and maternal health

Basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, outcomes, and health services research

Program Directors

Christopher Baker, MD

Award Categories

- Mentored Faculty
- Junior Faculty



Child and Maternal Health (CMH-Pilot) Grant Program

Amount: \$40K
Duration: 1 year

Major goals

- Support junior faculty/ early-stage investigators in their efforts to become an independent PI
- Facilitate developing preliminary data on hypothesis-driven projects to help securing future federal funds



Review Criteria

CO-Pilot and CMH-Pilot



CCTSI Review Panels will use the NIH 9-point scoring system and rate based on following criteria:

- a. **Innovation** in research hypotheses, approaches, and techniques.
- b. **Approach/Scientific Merit** based on rigor, transparency and one-year feasibility of the proposed study design.
- c. **Principal Investigators'** research qualification and collaborative potential of the team and mentors
- d. **Significance** to the CCTSI Vision to “Accelerate and catalyze the translation of innovative science into improved health and patient care.”
- e. **Translational Science Roadblock:** does the Pilot proposal address a translational science roadblock that could be generalizable to other research studies?
- f. **Career Development Plan** for Mentored pilot applications only
- g. **Environment** and institutional support to the PI and the proposal
- h. **Health Equity and Diversity (Non-Scoring Criteria)**





National Center
for Advancing
Translational Sciences

Transforming Translational Science

NCATS Strategic Principles

Whereas “translational research” focuses on crossing a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease, translational science is focused on the general case that applies to any/multiple targets or diseases.

A key tenet of translational science is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure to complete translational research projects in a timely fashion, which may present a common barrier across various research targets, diseases, and therapeutic areas.



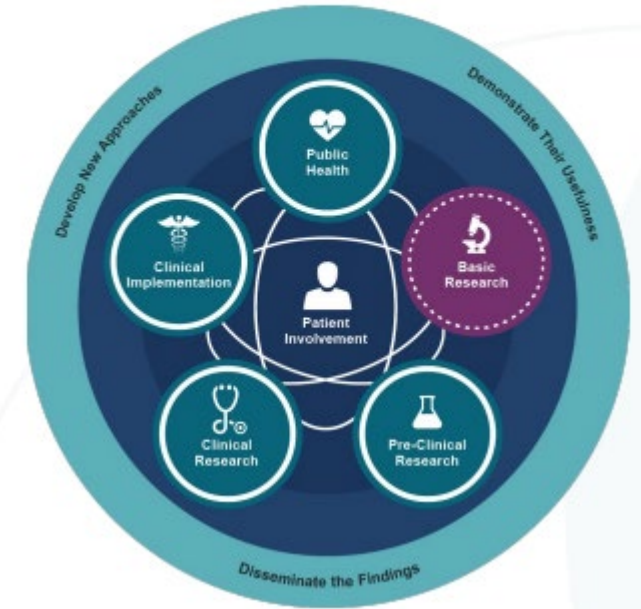
Examples of Translational Science Roadblocks

In the application, the PI must state clearly what is your “translational science roadblock” that you will be addressing in your proposal:

- improved study design by improving rigor and transparency in major generalizable areas of translational discovery
- technical execution of complex mechanistic studies in humans or animal models
- challenges to data acquisition, integrity and analysis
- translational barrier from animal models to human trials; or between adult and pediatric patient populations
- timely participant recruitment and retention
- enhanced recruitments and engagement of underserved populations

Spanning the Full Spectrum of Translation

NCATS' programs, initiatives and other resources span the entire spectrum of translational science.



Translation Science Examples ([PDF](#))



- Discovering new therapeutic targets and molecular pathways which play crucial roles across various therapeutic areas
- Developing or testing models that better predict a person's response to treatment
- Using novel methods to translate findings from the laboratory, clinic, or community into treatments and interventions
- Developing data acquisition methods or post-processing that will facilitate use of complex technologies and datasets in clinical research
- Novel use of informatics or big data to answer important clinical questions
- Developing or testing novel methods in early stage (Phase 1-2) clinical trials to make the trial more efficient
- Developing or testing novel methods, processes or study designs to address health disparities
- Enhancing the design and conduct of clinical trials so the results more accurately reflect the patient population generally affected by a disease (to enhance clinical relevance)
- Developing and testing new tools for engagement of underserved populations
- Developing or testing processes to improve enrollment of diverse populations in a hypothesis-driven research pilot study
- Validating natural animal models of human disease in companion animals

Spanning the Full Spectrum of Translation

NCATS' programs, initiatives and other resources span the entire spectrum of translational science.



[How to Address Translational Science Roadblocks?](#)



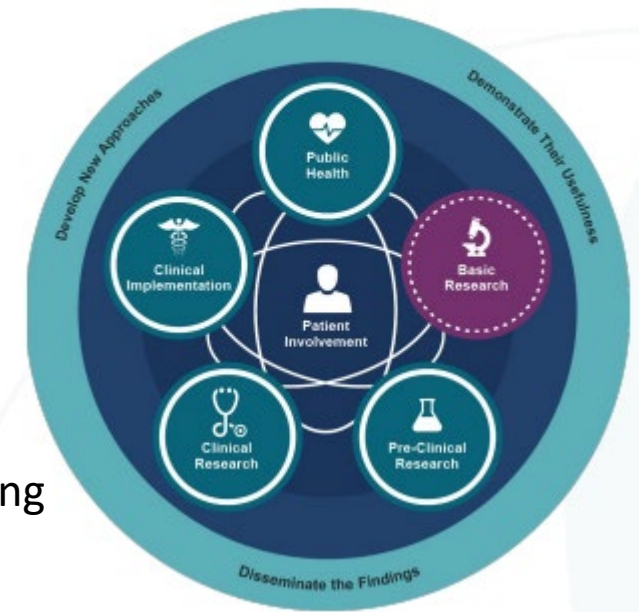
Some Examples of Translational Science Pilot Focus

Establishing Molecular Mechanisms of Polymorphism of Cytochrome P450: This study will be performed in vitro using Tg and KO epithelial and hepatic cells using novel immunosuppressive drug (CU AMC Drug Discovery Core). CYP450 polymorphism is a very generalized problem, and its understanding will help to establish pharmacokinetic properties of over 75% of existing therapeutic agents (CSU Drug Discovery Core). The pilot addresses the barrier of rigor and transparency in major generalizable areas of translational discovery.

Advanced Bulimia Treatment in Adolescent Girls: Efforts will be made to enroll young female participants from diverse geo-economic and racial background to address eating and behavioral disorders. fMRI at a 3 Tesla MRI (CU AMC Brain Imaging Core) will provide pharmacodynamics readouts. Addresses enhanced recruitments and engagement of underserved populations

Spanning the Full Spectrum of Translation

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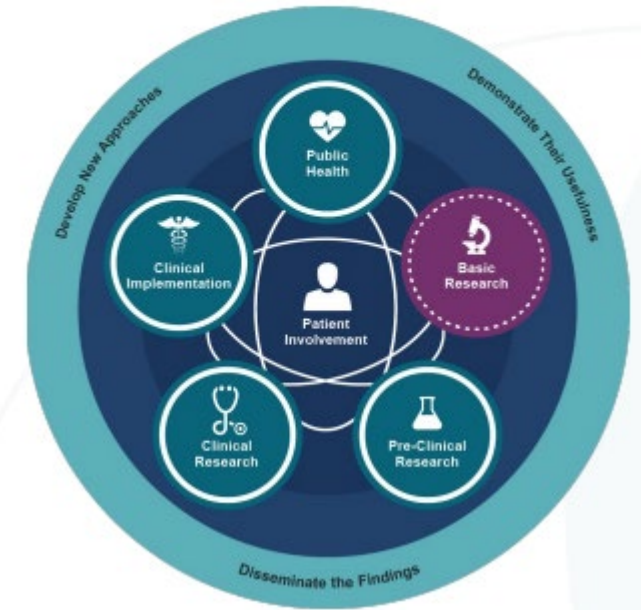
Some Examples of Translational Science Pilot Focus

Validating Natural Animal Translational Disease Models: Many diseases of dogs, cats, horses and other animals are more similar to diseases in people than induced diseases in traditional rodent models. For example, osteosarcoma in dogs is genetically similar to the same tumor in people and responds to similar therapies. Idiopathic epilepsy in dogs has many symptoms that mimic childhood epilepsies. Accordingly, validating the molecular, diagnostic, and therapeutic features of these diseases in veterinary clinical trials (so called “T0.5”) is a mechanism for improving translational science, addressing translational barrier from animal models to human trials.

Retrospective Analysis on Multi-Institutional CU-CSU Omics Data: These pilots could leverage the pilot to address the issue of performing team science across institutions and data harmonization and transfer between institutions, etc. Address challenges in data acquisition, integrity and analysis

Spanning the Full Spectrum of Translation

NCATS' programs, initiatives and other resources span the entire spectrum of translational science.



Tips for Success

Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

Resources Training Funding Community Engagement News and Events About Us Volunteer for a Study

- Clinical and Translational Research Centers (CTRC)
- Language For Your Grant Applications
- Protocol Submission
- Clinical Research Support Team (CRcST)
- Regulatory Knowledge and Support
- DSMB Assistance
- Translational Informatics
- Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)
- Trial Innovation Network (TIN)
- Recruit Participants
- Research Ethics
- Research Studio Program
- Find a Researcher (PROFILES)
- IT Campus Research Resources
- Early Life Exposures Research Program (ELEP)
- Dissemination and Implementation
- What are you looking for?



ACCELERATING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE HEALTH

The CCTSI helps build research teams of the future, speed the development of new treatments and improve human health



Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

<https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/resources>



Tips for Success

Please make sure that your application includes all scientific sections:

- ABSTRACT: strict 250 words
 - State clearly the scientific problem, your working hypothesis, the proposed methods, and the expected results.
- SPECIFIC AIMS:
 - usually 2 specific aims,
 - with an additional third one being your Translational Science Roadblock
 - please do NOT copy and paste specific aims from a larger applications (such as yours, or your mentors, R01) – this is a PILOT grant
- Background, Significance and Innovation:
 - here, you can include also your preliminary data (not required)
 - Clearly describes your translational science roadblock
- Approach:
 - Experimental Design (don't forget anticipated challenges and alternative approaches)
 - Explain (2-3 sentences) how the rigor of your experimental design and data will address the translational science roadblock(s)
 - Don't forget (i) data analysis and statistics; (ii) shared resources; (iii) feasibility and timeline





Regulatory Knowledge and Support

The Regulatory Knowledge and Support Core (RKSC) of the CCTSI provides a support structure to deal with the complexities of research regulatory compliance.



Research Ethics

This free consultative service is sponsored by the CCTSI and is available to all biomedical and behavioral researchers at CU Anschutz, as well as its institutional partners and clinical affiliates, who seek advice about ethically complex aspects of their research.



Trial Innovation Network

The Trial Innovation Network is a new collaborative initiative within the CTSA Program and is composed of three key organizational partners – the CTSA Program Hubs, the Trial Innovation Centers (TICs) and the Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC).



Clinical Research Support Team

Provides a pool of experienced study coordinators and regulatory staff to assist with clinical research study start-up, implementation and closeout.



Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD)

Providing statistical collaboration and resources to CCTSI investigators and trainees. We facilitate clinical and translational research through statistical consultation, improved statistical literacy, through seminars and short courses, and advanced tools



Recruit Participants

Access the many resources necessary for successful recruitment of participants for clinical research studies. Learn how to develop and implement a well-planned strategy.



Funding

Each year, the CCTSI awards more than \$2 million in pilot grants, microgrants and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research scholar awards



Language for Grant Applications

CCTSI resources and other support details for your grant applications.



Protocol Submission

The Research Submission Portal process will ensure that your human subject research is ready for IRB submission.



Find a Researcher

The Colorado PROFILES search engine and social networking platform for biomedical researchers provides tools to help investigators and students find experts, potential collaborators or mentors.

[CTRC Pricing](#)

[CCTSI Research Studio Program](#)

[Colorado PROFILES](#)

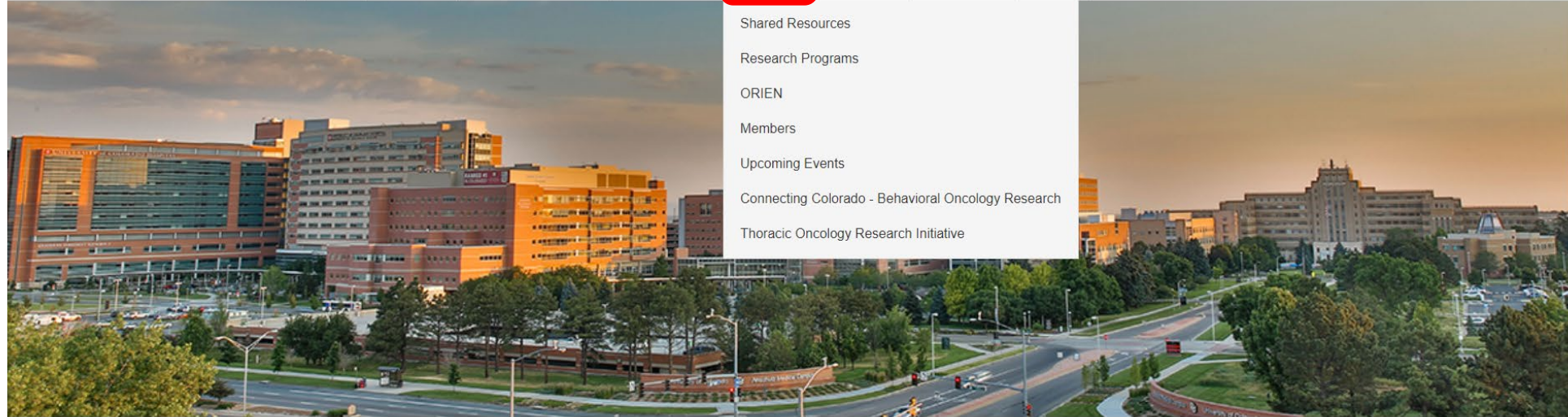


University of Colorado Cancer Center

School of Medicine

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Patients & Families](#) [Clinical Trials](#) [Research](#) [Education](#) [Community](#) [News](#)

- Shared Resources
- Research Programs
- ORIEN
- Members
- Upcoming Events
- Connecting Colorado - Behavioral Oncology Research
- Thoracic Oncology Research Initiative



The CU Cancer Center supports a variety of state-of-the-art technological shared resources – *their incorporation into **CO/CMH/TM-Pilot** proposals is encouraged!*

Animal Imaging – Biostatistics and Bioinformatics – Cell Technologies – Drug Discovery and Development – Flow Cytometry – Functional Genomics – Genomics – Human Immune Monitoring – Mass Spectrometry – Population Health – Structural Biology – Pathology

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center#CUMain>



[HOME](#)

[FAQ](#)

[CONTACT](#)

Research Core Labs



One of the defining features of a top-tier research university is the availability of core facilities that provide a spectrum of contemporary analytic tools that can be shared across the campus. Ideally these cores provide both technical and consultative services at modest cost and, as a result, elevate the quality of the overall research enterprise. It is appropriate that the core landscape evolves as new technologies emerge and others become obsolete.

Below is a list to the current operational research cores supported by the School of Medicine and the research leadership on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Search our Core Labs



e.g., biomarker, data analysis, flow cytometry, genetic screen, proteomics

<https://researchcores.cuanschutz.edu/>



Application Process

Kristen House
CCTSI Pilot Program Administrator



How to Apply



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Webmail | UCD Access | Canvas | Quick Links | Search

Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

Resources Training Funding Community Engagement News and Events About Us Volunteer for a Study

- TL1 Pre and Post Doctoral Program
- KL2 Mentored Career Development Award
- CCTSI COVID-19-Related Research Pilot
- CO-Pilot Grants
 - Child and Maternal Health Pilot Grant (CMH-Pilot)
 - Community Engagement Pilot Grant (CE-Pilot)
 - Translational Methods Pilot Grant (TM-Pilot)
- CTRC MicroGrants
- CCTSI Membership

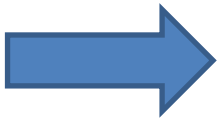
Funding Opportunities

Each year, the CCTSI awards more than \$2 million in pilot grants, microgrants, and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research scholar awards. You can find more information on each grant and how to apply below

<https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding>



Save
this
email!



LINK TO APPLY FOR CCTSI PILOT GRANT FUNDING - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Acrobat

Ignore Delete Archive Reply Reply All Forward More Share to Teams

Avanzi (CO-D-2... To Manager
Team Email Done
Reply & Delete Create New

Move Rules Send to OneNote Actions

Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Tags Editing

Read Aloud Immersive Reader Translate Zoom Viva Insights

LINK TO APPLY FOR CCTSI PILOT GRANT FUNDING

HK CCTSI <kristen.house@cuanschutz.edu>
To House, Kristen

20220726163915_survey_0a597401.pdf
50 KB

[External Email - Use Caution]

Thank you for submitting your Intent to Apply Form (LOI).

SAVE THIS REUSABLE LINK TO YOUR APPLICATION FORM:

[CCTSI Pilot Grant Award Application Form](https://datastore.cctsi.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=pXiVZ7HvpquMaaJx)

Or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://datastore.cctsi.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=pXiVZ7HvpquMaaJx>

If you require assistance, please contact kristen.house@cuanschutz.edu.

You may now close this tab/browser.



CCTSI Pilot Grant Award Budget

Budget and Active Award Period: August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026

CATEGORY & ITEM(S)	Indicate Budget for Each Location					Total Amount
	CU AMC	CSU	CU Boulder	CHCO	Other Institution (Specify Location)	
Key Personnel Salary & Fringe Benefits						\$ -
Other Personnel						\$ -
Fee for Service (including Core Services)						\$ -
Supplies						\$ -
Equipment						\$ -
Animals						\$ -
Participant Incentives						\$ -
Meetings & Travel (Costs are permitted for attendance at one scientific conference)						\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	

TOTAL AWARD BUDGET \$ -

Unallowable expenses

- indirect costs
- international entities
- publication costs
- equipment ≥\$5,000
- computers
- telecommunications
- food
- furniture
- administrative support
- non-project specific office expenses
- Professional dues/fees/membership
- training costs

Applicants should customize these Categories



Budget Template ([Excel](#)) and ([PDF](#))

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is for informational purposes only. All applicants must comply with the requirements of the official Request for Funding Applications (RFA) posted on the CCTSI website.

Intent to Apply Form (LOI)

		All Applicants	Mentored	Junior	CU-CSU Award	TM-Pilot	CSU Faculty
1	Select CCTSI Pilot Grant Program	Required					
2	Select Pilot Award Category	Required					
3	Certify this project meets RFA Eligibility & Exclusion criteria	Required					
4	Does this study involve collaboration with non-CCTSI Affiliated Institution(s)?	Required					
5	Are any investigators involved with this project associated with Colorado State University?	Required					
6	Project Title	Required					
7	Translational Science Roadblock	Required					
8	Contact Information: Principal Investigator	Required					
9	Contact Information: Co-Principal Investigator				Required	Optional	
10	Contact Information: Co-Investigator(s)	If Applicable					
11	Contact Information: Primary Mentor (or two Co-Mentors)		Required				
12	Contact Information: Requested Reviewer(s)	Optional					
13	Research Topics (Used to pair applications with reviewers)	Optional					

Application Checklist ([Excel](#))



Application Form

		All Applicants	Mentored	Junior	CU-CSU Award	TM-Pilot	CSU Faculty
1	Confirm all contact information from LOI is accurate. Combine all documentation required in the RFA and combine into a single PDF to upload with you online Application Form. Refer to RFA for specific formatting guidelines.	Required					
2	Project Overview (2-3 sentences) List all investigator names, titles, institutions before the Project Overview	Required					
3	Abstract (strict 250 word limit)	Required					
4	Specific Aims, including a Translational Science Roadblock	Required					
5	Background, Significance and Innovation, including the description of the translational science roadblock	Required					
6	Approach, including Experimental Design, Translational Science Roadblock, Data and Statistical Analysis, Feasibility, Shared Resources, Timeline	Required					
7	References (no page limit)	Required					
8	Multiple PI Plan (1 page limit)				Required	Optional	
9	Mentor Letter of Support (no page limit) If there are two co-Mentors, a combined letter or two separate letters will be accepted as a single PDF.		Required				
10	Career Development Plan (1 page)		Required				
11	Letters of Support (no page limit) May include department chairs, consultants, foundations, commercial sources, manufacturers, etc.	Optional					
12	Budget (1 page limit, vertical alignment only) Please use the CCTSI Budget Template (available on the CCTSI website)	Required					
13	Budget Justification	Required					
14	Biosketches (no page limit)	Required					
15	CSU OSP Proposal Transmission Letter (no page limit) Contact Jessica Hunter (jessica.hunter@colostate.edu) for details.				Required		Required
16	Cost Share Budget (1 page limit) Applications may include collaboration with non-CCTSI Affiliated organizations. Refer to RFA for specific instructions.	See RFA, Check with Kristen House					
17	Other: Institutional Prior Approval (no page limit) Applicants based at CCTSI Affiliated Institutions are strongly encouraged to work with the sponsored programs office at their institution to meet all pre-application requirements specific to their organization, including applications for federal and non-federal (internally funded) seed grant programs.	Check with institution					

Application Checklist ([Excel](#))



Tips for Success

- DEADLINE:
 - Applications are due on **January 13, 2025** at 5pm MST
 - No late applications will be accepted
- FORMAT:
 - Arial 11 pt font, single-spaced, with ½ inch margins, no headers/footers
 - Maximum of **8 pages**
 - Including cover page, specific aims, background and significance, approach, budget template, and budget justification
 - Excluding references, letters of support, Biosketches, and any institutional approvals

If formatting is not followed or the proposal exceeds the page limit, the application will be administratively withdrawn



CCTSI Pilot Grant Contacts

<https://cctsi.cuanschultz.edu/funding>

Kristen House

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kristen.house@cuanschultz.edu

Jessica Hunter

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Nikki Leonardo

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CO/TM-Pilot Program Director

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CMH-Pilot Director

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