

Request for Proposal – February 2025

CWRU Technology Validation & Start-Up Fund Program (CTP)

Key Deadlines:

- Pre-Proposals Due: March 14th, 2025
- Full Proposals Due: Late July, 2025 (TBD)
- Pitch Day – August 2025 (TBD)

The Technology Validation and Start Fund (TVSF), funded by the Ohio Third Frontier, aims to accelerate and fund the translation of promising technologies into the marketplace through Ohio start-up companies with the eventual goal of creating greater economic growth.

The CTP is intended to be the final bridge between a translational research project and a viable commercial program. Funding will support technologies that require validation/proof that will directly impact and enhance commercial viability and the ability to support a startup company. Projects must have already advanced beyond basic research and should have the equivalent of a laboratory-scale proof of concept prior to applying for funding.

Applicants are encouraged to work with potential Ohio licensees and business advisors prior to submitting an application in order to identify critical needs for the technology. Paramount importance will be placed on customer discovery, whether in the form of industry partners or potential end users. Specific milestones related to enhancing valuation and reducing risk should be defined.

Technology Focus Areas:

All proposals must fall into the State of Ohio's technology focus areas below. **Please note that this specific RFP will focus on technologies within the biomedical, life sciences, and healthcare fields.** A separate RFP for non-biomedical and engineering projects will be issued in late 2025.

- Biomedical
- Healthcare
- Life sciences

Award Information

- **Anticipated award type:** Standard Grant with 1:1 cost share
- **Anticipated number of awards:** 4-6 awards at \$100,000 - \$150,000 each (includes cost share)
- **Funding period per project:** 1 year
- **Cost Share Requirement:** cash cost share commitment of at least one dollar for every dollar of project funds requested (i.e., a ratio of 1:1) and must represent a specific new unrestricted (non-government funding) cash commitment to the project
- **Funding Restrictions:**
 - Eligible expenses include: purchased services from outside (Ohio) vendors, supplies, equipment, personnel time.
 - It is highly recommended that 50% of the total budget be allocated to independent, off-campus, third-party vendors, preferably those located in Ohio
 - Personnel expenses cannot exceed 50% of the total budget
 - Indirect costs are not allowed

- Travel expenses are not allowed

Eligibility

- Applicants must be full-time CWRU faculty, or have joint appointments between CWRU and any of the following hospitals: University Hospitals, VA Medical Center or Metro Health Systems
- Applicants must have at least a provisional patent application on file related to the technology with the CWRU Technology Transfer Office
- Priority will be given to projects that have had previous funding from a Translational Research Program or have been pre-vetted by one of CWRU's affiliated Validation Programs, listed below:

Translational Research Funding Programs:

- Case-Coulter Translational Research Program (CCTRP)
- Council to Advance Human Health (CAHH)
- NIH Center for Accelerated Innovations (NCAI)
- Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC)
- Harrington Discovery Institute (HDI)
- High Throughput Screening Program
- OFRN / ARPA-E / Other DOD or DOE

Validation Programs:

- Research and Technology Commercialization Visiting Committee (RTCVC)
- I-Corps
- Great Lakes Energy Institute (GLEI)
- JumpStart Venture Validation Program (VVP)
- Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center (TBEIC)

University Contact

If you have any questions about the process or you would like to discuss further, please contact:

Walid Jalabi

*Licensing Manager- Technology Transfer Office
Director, CWRU Technology Validation & Start-Up Fund
(216) 368-2151 - wxj68@case.edu*

Submission Process

All submission for TVSF Phase 1 grants will be directly administered by the Technology Transfer Office at CWRU with oversight from the Ohio Third Frontier.

Step 1: Pre-Proposals (using template [HERE](#)) Due: March 14th, 2025

Use the template and submit to the CTP Program Director, [Walid Jalabi](#)

Step2: Qualified proposals will be chosen to advance to the full-proposal stage. Each applicant will be contacted individually. Full Proposals Due: Late July 2025 (TBD)