

KYNETIC Product Development Grant

Request for Applications (RFA): Cycle 5

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/year for 4 years to fund product development project grants. 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 focused on product development and requires milestone-based project management. KYNETIC Project Managers are available to assist with preparation of pre-applications. Applicants who are invited to submit a full application will work with Project Managers and/or mentors on product development plans and project timelines.

Important Dates:

Pre-applications due:	February 14, 2022 by 5:00 PM (ET)
Full application invitations sent:	Early to mid-March 2022*
Full applications due:	Early to mid-April 2022*
Full application pitch presentations:	Early May 2022*
Anticipated award start/end dates:	July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

**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	

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Eligibility (continued):

- Non-faculty applicants must identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their application.
- Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) are permitted.
- All personnel (including faculty sponsors) who are listed on an application must agree to participate and 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 eligible KYNETIC universities/community colleges
 - 2) either (a) have existing intellectual property protection (e.g., patent, copyright, trademark) or (b) have potential to create new intellectual property. 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, disclosure 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:

- For Cycle 5, applicants may request **up to \$40,625** in direct costs for the 6-month award period (July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022).
- **For Cycle 5, a total of 8 awards will be distributed as follows:**
 - University of Kentucky (3 awards)
 - University of Louisville (3 awards)
 - Participating regional universities and community and/or technical colleges (2 awards)

Note: This will be a mixture of renewals and new projects. The above award distribution may be adjusted contingent on External Review Board and NIH approval.

- Projects that are awarded funding may compete for additional funding in subsequent cycles (up to a maximum of \$200,000 or 4 funding cycles per technology); however, additional funding is not guaranteed.
- Funded Cycle 4 projects are eligible to compete for additional funding in Cycle 5, but are not required to submit a new pre-application.

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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 not suitable for the program.

Responsive pre-applications will be reviewed by the KYNETIC Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) based on 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 mid to late March 2022 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 IAC feedback, 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 involve additional training in research commercialization and assistance in creating a detailed product development plan and 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. You can either use the [Consultation Request Form](#) or email Project Managers directly:

For investigators at:	Please contact:
University of Kentucky	kynetic@uky.edu
University of Louisville	kynetic@louisville.edu
Eastern Kentucky University Kentucky Community & Technical College System Kentucky State University Morehead State University Murray State University Northern Kentucky University Western Kentucky University	kynetic@louisville.edu