KYNETIC Product Development Grant
Request for Applications (RFA): Cycle 9

Background:

The [REACH](#) (Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub) program is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative that has created five REACH 2.0 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 2.0hub 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:	Feb 13, 2024 by 5:00 PM (ET)
Full application invitations sent:	March 2024*
Full applications due:	April 2024*
Full application pitch presentations:	May 2024*
Anticipated award start/end dates:	July 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

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.

- All personnel (including faculty sponsors) who are listed on an application must agree to participate and submit the application. Each person listed as key personnel will be asked to complete a "Contributor Form" after pre-application submission.

- 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 9, applicants should budget for $44,375** in direct costs for the 6-month award period (July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024). Applicants will be asked within the pre-application to outline how these funds will be used, but submission of an itemized budget is not required at this time.

- **For Cycle 9**, **a total of 8 awards are planned as follows:**
    o University of Kentucky (3 awards)
    o University of Louisville (3 awards)
    o 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 were previously awarded KYNETIC funding (Cycles 1-7) may compete for additional funding up to a maximum of $200,000 or 4 funding cycles per technology and are required to submit a pre-application. Funded Cycle 8 projects that are eligible to compete for additional KYNETIC funding in Cycle 9 (**$44,375)** are not required to submit a new pre-application. If you have questions about whether you are required to submit a pre-application, please contact KYNETIC Project Managers.

Pre-application preparation and submission:

KYNETIC pre-applications require 2 components:

1. **Project Description Template:** A short (2-page) description of the problem you are trying to address and the solution you envision. This will be prepared offline and uploaded to the portal. The Project Description template may be downloaded from the KYNETIC website or from the REDCap portal (link below).

2. **Online form:** You will be asked to provide information about the project and investigators, including previous innovation-related experience and technology stage. You will also upload your completed Project Description Template

IMPORTANT: Please carefully review the Pre-application Submission Instructions, which provide a detailed list of the information needed for submission and step-by-step guidance on how to prepare and submit your KYNETIC pre-application.

Submit your pre-application via the REDCap portal:

https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=LREWDKWYJCA83M34

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, KYNETIC Project Managers may also 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

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 a panel consisting of the KYNETIC Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) and the KYNETIC Leadership Team 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) 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, areas in which the application could be strengthened, and/or strategies for alternative funding.

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).