

CURE Program FAQ

Question: What is the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement (CURE) Program?

Answer: A grant program with funds from the Master Settlement Agreement with tobacco manufacturers.

The Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement (CURE) Program was created by Act 77 of 2001 Chapter 9 COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSAL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT (CURE). The Department of Health was directed to establish a health research program where appropriations from the Master Settlement Agreement with tobacco manufacturers would be used to fund research projects and related infrastructure by eligible applicants that included: biomedical research, clinical research and health services research. The Department of Health uses a Request for Application (RFA) to process grant recipients. An annual CURE report is posted at www.cure.pa.gov.



Question: Who is eligible for CURE funds?

Answer: It depends on the type of grant.

“Formula” grants are based on a formula in Section 908. An institution (non-profit entity, hospital, institution of higher education) that conducts research in this Commonwealth and has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during each of the three immediately preceding Federal fiscal years are eligible for Section 906(1). “Non-formula” or competitive grants are focused on a priority and applicants must be located in the Commonwealth. Watch www.cure.pa.gov for updates on priority research topics.

Question: What is the difference between “formula” grants and “non-formula” grants?

Answer: Formula grant recipients must meet requirements to receive grant funds. Non-formula grants are competitive.

Formula grant recipients must be a Commonwealth non-profit institution that conducts research and meets the NIH three consecutive year funding. Non-formula competitive grants are awarded based on their submitted proposal addressing an identified research priority, the peer review of the proposal, the ranking by the peer reviewers and the amount of funding available.

Question: Can I be considered for the advisory committee?

Answer: All members are appointed. The Governor has the authority to make four appointments and leaders of the General Assembly have four as well.

Members appointed by the Governor must possess expertise in health care or research, with representation by public health professionals, clinical investigators, practicing clinicians and institution-based research specialists. Depending on the appointing authority, terms of office for the advisory committee members vary from two to six years. If you want to be considered when vacancies occur, please send a letter of interest and summary of qualifications to the Governor’s Office of Public Liaison (Attn: Boards and Commissions), 508 C Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120 with a copy to the Health Research Program. You may also contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly and indicate your interest in serving on the Health Research Advisory Committee pursuant to Act 77 of 2001, Chapter 9.

Question: When will the RFA for the competitive grants be issued?

Answer: The RFA is usually issued once a year, after the research priorities are finalized.

During the process of developing priorities, the Department and Health Research Advisory Committee may seek public comment for proposed research priorities. Announcements of the public comment process, final research priorities and the posting of RFA can be found at www.cure.pa.gov.

Question: Can I get information about when the Advisory Committee will meet?

Answer: The information on the Health Research Advisory Committee meetings is provided in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and at www.cure.pa.gov.

Question: How can a grant recipient check on the payment status of their grant?

Answer: Call the Vendor Data Management Unit at 877-435-7363 or visit [Help & Resources for Vendors](#).

Question: How do I contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

Answer: Visit the [IRB website](#) or contact them via email ra-dhirg@pa.gov.