Texas A&M University System Research Excellence Fund (REF)
Proposal Cost Share Program

The Texas A&M University System REF Proposal Cost Share Program recognizes that many large-scale and collaborative funding opportunities require cost-sharing commitments, which often determine whether a proposal is competitive or even eligible for consideration. By providing a central resource for strategic cost-sharing, the program aims to enhance System-wide success in securing major, multi-investigator, and multi-institutional research awards. Proposals must require or benefit significantly from cost share, have total project budgets typically exceeding $1 million in external funding request, and be linked to a specific proposal solicitation (i.e., RFP, NOFO, etc.) to a federal, state, or private sponsor. Requests involving multiple A&M System members will receive priority consideration.

The program does not have a limit on the number of proposals a A&M System member university can submit, but each proposal must be submitted by the Vice President for Research (VPR). Proposals may request up to $250,000 and no less than $25,000 per request. Detailed program requirements and application instructions can be found on the final page below.

Texas A&M University (TAMU) Internal Selection Process
1. Each interested college/unit conducts its internal process and uploads proposals to InfoReady on a rolling basis (no submission limits and no deadline).
2. The VPR Office is notified and reviews the proposals for compliance check (if any issues, the proposal will be declined).
3. VPR organizes a review committee (primarily the VPR team) for the proposals based on the review criteria.
4. Based on the review committee's recommendation, VPR prepares a Memo of Support for selected proposals based on the draft Memo of Support prepared by the PI.
5. VPR creates a single PDF version for each selected proposal for submission to the System via email (ref@tamus.edu).
6. For proposals not selected for submission to the System, VPR (via InfoReady) will notify the relevant URC Deans and PIs of the status of their proposal.
7. For proposals submitted to the System, VPR will notify the relevant URC Deans and PIs of the outcome of the submission as soon as a notification is received from the System.

Important Deadlines:
- N/A: There is no deadline and no limit on submissions. Proposals will be processed as they are submitted. However, early submission of proposals is encouraged since the review and decision-making process may take several weeks.

The following will be requested in InfoReady.

Proposal Cost Share Program - Page 1
- PI First Name
- PI Last Name
- PI Title
- PI Email Address
- PI Primary Organization (College/School)
- PI Department

Proposal Cost Share Program - Page 2 (See RFP for Additional Details)
- Application Title
- Cover Page *(1 page - Word File Only)*
- Justification and Impact Statement *(up to 3 pages - Word File Only)*
- Budget and Cost-Share Commitment *(1 page - Word File Only)*
- Letters of Support *(up to 5 letters; 1 page per letter - Word or PDF)*
- Draft Memo of Support *(1 page - Word File Only)*