2027 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards

University of Colorado Applicant Instructions for University of Colorado Colorado Springs

This document provides critical information to supplement the Boettcher Foundation application, biosketch template, eligibility certification and verification form and the University of Colorado (CU) specific budget template that are posted at www.cu.edu/bfww/application-components.

All applicants from CU must comply with these CU-specific instructions. For example, the initial submission deadline to the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity (OSPRI) is **Friday, February 12, 2027**, which is earlier than the date cited in the Boettcher Foundation application. You must go through the proposal routing process before submitting the final document to OSPRI. Before you begin working on the application, please read the eligibility criteria carefully! Contact OSPRI with questions. Please do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

If you intend to apply, you must submit the Eligibility Certification and Verification Form and final budget and budget justification for OSPRI review and approval due
(CU-specific Budget template provided at www.cu.edu/bfww/application-components)
to OSPRI no later than
5pm, Friday, February 12, 2027.

Final applications must be submitted to OSPRI no later than
5pm, Friday, February 19, 2027.

Final completed applications will be submitted to the President's Office by OSPRI by Friday, March 5, 2027.

The deadlines are firm. No exceptions.

ITEMS TO STRESS FOR THE 2027 APPLICATION PROCESS

- Intent to Apply Form. To ensure that the award selection panel has the expertise needed to review submitted applications, we are requesting that each potential 2027 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards applicant complete an Intent to Apply form:
  - The deadline for submitting this form is Thursday, January 14, 2027.
  - The link to the form is https://www.cu.edu/bfww/intenttoapply
  - This online form and deadline are separate from the application packet submitted to your grants and contracts office.

- Be sure you are eligible before starting the application process.

- For candidates who have previously applied, received feedback and are resubmitting:
  - A Response to Prior Year Reviewers form must be completed and included with your application.
  - Include the form immediately after your cover letter.

- Holders of K99/R00 or equivalent grants can be eligible if they clearly demonstrate that their proposed Webb-Waring Biomedical Awards research is distinct from their R00 funding (and meet other eligibility criteria):
  - Applicants must provide a written summary of the R00 and an explanation discussing how their proposal addresses a novel area of research that will take the applicant into a new research direction (max: 1 page).
    - Use this form: Supplemental Form for Holders of K99-R00 Grants.
  - Applications with specific aims overlap between the R00 and ECI proposals will be administratively withdrawn prior to review.

- Major award limits are $175,000 (direct costs only, total for all years)

- When completing research support section, for all past, current and pending research, be sure to include the total grant amount, the start and end dates of the grant, and a declarative statement as to whether the grant was mentored or independent.

- Follow the formatting guidelines – if not formatted correctly, proposals will be administratively withdrawn prior to review.

ELIGIBILITY

For the purposes of this program, an eligible Early-Career Investigator (ECI) is defined as:

1. **An investigator who is four years or fewer from their initial career-track academic appointment as of January 1 of the award/selection year** (i.e., whose initial career-track academic appointments began **no earlier than January 1, 2023**). The initial career-track academic appointment includes appointments at other institutions. These are faculty appointments with significant expectations regarding research, and/or teaching, and/or clinical activities and may be tenure-track or non-tenure track. For the University of Colorado, qualified "career-track academic appointments" based on the faculty titles are:
    - Tenure Track:
        - Assistant Professor
        - Associate Professor
    - Research or Clinical Track:
        - Assistant Professor
        - Associate Professor
2. **An investigator who HAS NOT previously received a major independent research award.** A major independent research award is determined to be a National Institutes of Health [NIH] R01 or similar grant which provides independent research support of at least $175,000 direct costs (either single-year or multiple-year award), and which was awarded through a peer review process conducted by a public or private institution. Multiple independent awards that are, as of May 1 of the award/selection year, each less than $175,000, but that total more than $175,000 will not impact eligibility;

    - Training grants, mentored/supervised grants, and career development grants are not considered to be independent awards. There is no limit on the amount of these types of awards that an ECI can receive to maintain eligibility.
    - NIH "K" series grants are generally mentored grants. Holders of K99/R00 or equivalent grants can be eligible if they clearly demonstrate that their proposed Webb-Waring Biomedical Awards research is distinct from their R00 funding (and meet other eligibility criteria). Applicants must provide a written summary of the R00 and an explanation discussing how their proposal addresses a novel area of research that will take the applicant into a new research direction (max: 1 page). Applications with specific aims overlap between the R00 and ECI proposals will be administratively withdrawn prior to review.

3. An investigator who received a terminal degree or completed their initial medical residency within 10 years of January 1 of the award/selection year (**i.e., on or after January 1, 2017**)[1]; and

4. An investigator who is either a **U.S. Citizen** or **Permanent Resident**, **as of date of application in the award/selection year**.

Academic Appointments: Academic appointments must be documented at the time of the application. A signed letter of offer is acceptable documentation for appointment to a career-track academic position, but the start date must be prior to June 1 of the award/selection year.

Multiple Investigators: The purpose of the grant is to provide a non-mentored opportunity for an early-career investigator (ECI). A co-investigator who does not also qualify under the grant requirements is discouraged. Two investigators who both qualify as an ECI may collaborate on one application; however, the review committee will be left with the task of assessing the value of the proposed research as it advances both careers, which could place the proposal at some disadvantage. The best option is for one ECI to apply and include services (salary expense) from the second investigator in your budget.

If an early-career investigator (ECI) has one or more collaborators on their application, only one letter from a collaborator will be accepted, in addition to the four Letters of Recommendation specified later in this document.

Major Independent Awards: If the ECI also has a pending application for a major independent award at the time of submission, the ECI remains eligible for this program if an independent award has not been received before the ECI's application is forwarded to the foundation on May 1 of the award/selection year (i.e., May 1, 2027).

[1]Individual institutions can accommodate exceptions on the basis of individual review and consultation. Applicants that have received application extensions from NIH due to parental or family medical leave, for example, should contact the university program manager prior to submitting an application to confirm eligibility.

OVERVIEW OF SPONSOR APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Signed one-page Cover Letter (include the title of your proposal)
  - For candidates who have previously applied, received feedback and are resubmitting, a Response to Prior Year Reviewers form must be completed and included with your application.
- Signed Eligibility Certification and Verification Form
  - Supplemental Form for Holders of K99-R00 Grants
- Half-page description of the potential relevance of the proposed research to human health in simple layperson terms
- One-page Scientific Abstract
- Six-page (maximum) Investigator information
  - Boettcher Foundation Biographical Sketch Template provided at Biosketch Template
- Six-page (maximum) Research Plan
- Two-page (maximum) Budget
  - CU-specific Budget template provided at CU-Specific Budget Template
  - Budget Narrative (justification)
- Required letters of recommendation (see below for details)
- Applicant, Department, and Institutional signed Assurance Statements

REQUIRED INTERNAL ROUTING DOCUMENTS

- Internal Detail budget (required for routing) not a component of the application submitted to the sponsor.

BUDGET:

Up to five awards will be made for $250,000 for Total Direct and Indirect Costs[2]. You may create a budget for one, two, or three years; the funds will be released according to the annual budget. The entire amount can be payable in the first year, but the budget can also be spread out to take into account the amount of time it may take to collect data, etc. It is possible to carry over from one budget year to the next, but all funds must be expended by the close of the three-year grant period or returned.

YOU MUST USE THE SPECIAL UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOETTCHER WEBB-WARING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS BUDGET TEMPLATE.

[2] A lower facilities and administrative (F&A) charge of 8% is used for this career development type of award.

A total Facilities and Administrative charge of 8% is built into the macro formulae: 4% is allocated to the CU system administration and 4% is allocated to the campus. The entire CU system administration amount is charged to the first year of the budget.

Allowable expenses include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Allowable Direct Costs:

- An Investigator's salary and benefits (Please contact your Grants office for the current fringe benefits rates)
- Other salaried personnel (including CU laboratory personnel)
- Tuition or Tuition Remission
- Professional Services
- Hourly compensation for laboratory personnel (including students)
- Supplies and Materials
- Small Equipment not to Exceed $7,500 in cost for each piece
- 50% of Large Equipment exceeding $7,500 in cost
- Services of core laboratories
- Professional travel

Indirect Costs:

- Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs will be charged on modified total direct costs following federal guidelines.
- Large equipment, costing over $7,500 in total and tuition will be exempt from overhead charges. The budget template will automatically exempt these items if amounts are entered into the appropriate lines.
- As budget amounts are entered into the blue area of the template, indirect costs will automatically calculate for both the campus portion and CU system administration portion and will add to the total budget.
- System Administration charges all IDC in first year of Award.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Three to Four signed letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application.

- **Letter One (Required)**: Must be from your **CU academic authority** such as the department or division chair/head, dean or other academic authority. **This letter must clearly state the department's commitment and nature of commitment to the applicant's research program.**
- **Letter Two (Required)**: Must be from **your current mentor (if applicable) or advisor**.
- **Letter Three and Letter Four (at least one required)**: Must be from **researchers outside your institution who can address the merits of the science.**
- **A maximum of four letters of reference will be accepted.**

2027 BOETTCHER WEBB-WARING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM

REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW

A distinguished and prestigious systemwide review panel will meet on Tuesday, April 27, 2027. Each application will be assigned to two reviewers and one reader who will use a modified NIH scoring system. After discussion and deliberation by the entire panel, up to five recommended awardees will be selected and the panel will forward their recommendations to the CU President. CU's final recommendations will be sent to the Boettcher Foundation for review by their Board of Trustees. Each eligible applicant will receive copies of the scientific reviews once the winners are announced by the Boettcher Foundation.

Charge to the Committee: Boettcher Foundation's objectives, definitions, and intent

- The impact of the investments should be high in terms of measurable outcomes.
- Investments should leverage existing or new partnerships to create an effort that is broader in scope than that which can be accomplished with the new funds alone.
- The awards should support existing programs that demonstrate levels of outstanding merit and accomplishment.
- The awards should support programs where existing gaps are substantial.

Criteria to be considered by the review committee include, but are not limited to:

- The scientific merit of the proposed work.
- The extent to which the research has the promise to contribute directly to improving human health.
- The preparation of the ECI and their ability to conduct independent research.
- The likelihood that the ECI will be more competitive after conclusion of the grant.
- The likelihood that the ECI will produce publications, be promoted, or contribute new technology disclosures will be considered.
- The reasonableness of the budget and the appropriateness of the timeframe proposed for the project.
- Additionally, other criteria developed by the review committee that are commonly applied in a peer review process.

The biomedical research supported pursuant to this grant program will be designed to find ways to prevent disease and improve human health through basic and applied biomedical research. The intent of the program is to fund meritorious research that has the potential for new discoveries or advances a discovery to the proof of its potential value as an application to improve human health. This research will improve the understanding, treatment, and prevention of human disease.

CONSTRUCTING THE APPLICATION

All applicants must complete and submit the Eligibility Certification and Verification Form and draft budget (**CU-specific Budget template provided at www.cu.edu/bfww/application-components**) to OSPRI **no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 12, 2027**.

When the budget has been reviewed and approved by OSPRI, submit a final PDF to OSPRI **no later than 5:00 pm, Friday, February 19, 2027**, with all proposal elements included in the following order:

1) Cover Letter
   - For candidates who have previously applied, received feedback and are resubmitting, a Response to Prior Year Reviewers form must be completed and included with your application.
2) Eligibility Certification and Verification Form
   - Supplemental Form for Holders of K99-R00 Grants
3) Relevance to Human Health
4) Scientific Abstract
5) Biographical Sketch (Biosketch Template)
6) Research Plan
7) Budget with justification (CU-Specific Budget Template)
8) Letters of recommendation
9) Signed assurance statement

All documents must be received by the dates indicated with a signed OSPRI routing form. There are no exceptions. OSPRI will submit the final application to the President's Office by **Friday, March 5, 2027**.

Campus Contact:

Jackie Rearick (jrearick@uccs.edu)

Application Review Campus Contact:

Jackie Rearick (jrearick@uccs.edu)
719-255-3619

Office of the President Contact:

The program manager in the Office of the President for the Boettcher Initiative at CU is Dan Montez (webb-waring@cu.edu).

Please do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly!