W.M. Keck Foundation Guidelines

There are three categories that are eligible for funding:

1. Science/Engineering Research

2. Medical Research
Grants range from $500,000 to $5 million (typically $1 million or less). Contrary to what is listed on the website, the Foundation has asked that we only submit papers for projects that are $1,000,000 and under. Please check the website for Eligibility and priorities.

3. Undergraduate Education
Grants range from $200,000 to $1 million (typically under $500,000). Except in very rare cases, the Foundation typically funds at the $200,000 level. Please check the website for Eligibility and priorities.

What is Keck looking for?

• Keck is looking for projects that will have a “transformative” effect on their fields or create new fields. The Foundation strives to fund endeavors that are distinctive and novel in their approach.
• Keck is not interested in projects that are on the path to drug development or commercial application.
• Projects should fall outside the mission of public funding agencies. If your project is selected for submission, the Foundation asks that you submit comments from NSF/NIH submissions. They are looking for research that is solid science, but too “edgy” for Federal agencies.
• Right now the Keck board is very much project focused and they don't do any kind of facilities setup.
• The Foundation recommends that papers do not focus on why something is important. The majority of the three page application and concept papers really needs to be spent on the methodology section / implementation plan (what and the how of the project).
• Keck will likely not consider proposals over $1 million because of the volatility of the stock market.
• For the Justification for Foundation Support, there must be concrete evidence that NIH, NSF or whoever won’t fund it. Ideally, that has been proven because it has been submitted and then declined for reasons that it’s too high risk or not enough preliminary evidence or didn’t fit the box, which are all reasons why it could be a good match for the Keck Foundation.
• Concept papers must have a clear sense of the impact and specifics about what’s expected to be learned.

Questions to consider before applying:

• How is this different in the field and transformative compared to what others are doing? Is this a “next logical step” proposal or something that is new? (The Foundation wants to support research that is distinctive and novel in its approach, questions prevailing paradigms, or has the potential to break open new territory in a field).
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- What are practitioners saying (potentially saying) about the implication of this research? Does or can this qualify for NSF/NIH Funding? (The Keck board is insistent that they don’t want to fund anything that could possibly get federal funding).
- Is this proposal disease specific? (the Foundation does not support disease specific, clinical, therapeutic, drug development, or anything in that range of applied medical research).
- Undergraduate Research: What are other schools are doing in this area? How is what we are doing different, and innovative compared to the other schools?

RESEARCH AND UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION CONCEPT PAPER GUIDELINES:

Papers must be single-paged concepts for the Research Program and should be in 12-point font with 1 inch margins and should include:
1) an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies (indicate area of emphasis - medical research or science, engineering research or undergraduate research);
2) a brief description of the key personnel and methodologies;
3) a brief justification of the need for Keck support; and
4) an estimated budget broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (Budgets can be rough approximations at this stage.)

If there’s room, the authors are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution’s prominence in the field, etc.) Avoid illustrations in these single-pagers – the researchers will need all the room for text. If a reference is necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, ‘11). DO NOT USE (Jones et al., 2011). Do not include illustrations in the concept paper. For more information on the process, click here.

Because the University is only allowed to submit a limited number of concepts papers, these will first be reviewed internally before a decision is made to forward it to the foundation. The Following timeline has been established:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>What’s Happening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 13, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline to submit concept papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Corporate and Foundation Relations / Vice President for Research Office – Select a limited number of concept papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1- August 15, 2016</td>
<td>Pre-application advising session with Keck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Areas (Faculty) Notified of Paper Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>Phase I Application Due Internally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2016</td>
<td>Phase I Application Due to Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about The W.M. Keck Foundation and their current funding interests and past grant abstracts, please visit their website.
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We strongly advise you review the website for additional information – particularly the FAQ and Grantee Responsibility sections.

One-page concept papers, in the described format are due via email to the Development Office (dev_grants@utah.edu) no later than 5pm on Monday June 13, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 585-9847.

Thank you,

Dhiraj

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