

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
GUIDELINES ON NON-COMPETITIVE FUNDING**

- I. The University of California supports merit-based scientific peer review as the best mechanism for the allocation of federal funds. Accordingly, the University generally does not seek non-competitive funds awarded through Congressional action (“earmarked funds”).
- II. In rare instances, the University may approve a request to pursue and accept Congressionally-directed funds. Such requests may be made only after the Chancellor has granted written approval. Campus officials shall forward approved requests to the Office of Federal Government Relations prior to submission to appropriate legislative staff.

Any request involving the action of a U.S. Senator requires final approval by the Office of the President.

Exceptions to the University’s general principle of declining to pursue non-competitive funding will be limited and may be approved only when it has been determined that a project is highly meritorious, promotes the mission of the University, and meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The Principal Investigator or campus seeking funding has explored federal funding options and, after a good faith effort, has been unable to identify a competitive-based source through which funds could be obtained.
2. The federal agency from which support is being sought uses directed funding for particular programs as a primary mechanism for the allocation of funds. Alternative competitive funding is not available from the federal agency, and by seeking non-competitive funding the University will not undermine support for or availability of peer-reviewed funding.
3. The project for which funding is sought promotes the mission of the prospective federal funding agency.
4. The project for which funding is sought has a compelling state or national interest.

The University will continue to support and prioritize competitive funding as the best mechanism for the allocation of federal support and will not seek directed funding from agencies that primarily or solely support competitive, peer-reviewed research, or in cases when seeking directed funding may undermine support for or availability of peer-reviewed funding.

The University reserves the right to refuse non-competitive funding secured without the prior knowledge and approval of the Chancellor.

- III. In each instance in which non-competitive funding is sought, the applicant must submit a proposal for review to a designated campus official. Each campus will establish a deadline by which proposals normally are to be submitted. This deadline will usually be on or around December 1, to allow for review by the University and to accommodate the legislative appropriations cycle. Each proposal must be accompanied by a completed request form. Requests approved by the Chancellor will be forwarded by campus officials to the Office of Federal Government Relations prior to submission to senatorial staff. After initial consultation with senatorial staff to determine the political viability of requests, the Office of Federal Government Relations will forward those requests involving the action of a U.S. Senator to the Office of the President for additional review and prioritization before submission to senatorial staff.