



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

November 22, 2024

Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Wiener:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 700, Chapter 268, Statutes of 2024, Section 104210.1(d), enclosed is the University of California’s report to the Legislature on the Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program (CFCPRP).

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. Cain can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by e-mail at Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

Enclosure

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

- cc:
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
 - The Honorable John Laird, Chair
 - Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
 - (Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)
 - (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
 - The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
 - Assembly Education Finance Subcommittee #3
 - (Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
 - (Attn: Ms. Sarah Haynes)
 - Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
 - Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
 - Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance
 - Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
 - Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office
 - Mr. Ian Klein, Legislative Analyst Office
 - Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Vice President Theresa A. Maldonado
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz

The California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program
Report to the Legislature
January 1, 2025

Legislation and Background

In fiscal year 2023-24, the State of California established the California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program ([CFCPRP](#)), and requested the University of California (UC) to develop and administer a competitive research grant program to fund research collaborations with California firefighters utilizing a community-based participatory research model ([AB 700, Chapter 268](#)). Per the legislation, the UC, in consultation with the **FIrefighting RESources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies** ([FIRESCOPE](#)), would set the strategic priorities of the CFCPRP, and it would receive and evaluate applications from eligible UC institutions. The technical merits of the proposals were to be determined by peer review panels modeled on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer review process, after which FIRESCOPE would make final recommendations to the UC on which research grants should be funded based on the established research priorities. The [California State Budget, 2023-24](#) allocated \$7 million to the CFCPRP, and University of California Office of the President (UCOP) Research Grants Program Office ([RGPO](#)) launched the Program in the fall of 2023.¹

Assembly Bill 700 also required the submission of reports to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2030. Reports will include:

- (1) The number and dollar amounts of research grants that have been awarded.
- (2) The name of each eligible educational institution receiving grant awards.
- (3) The name of each fire department working with the eligible educational institution conducting research funded by a grant awarded under this section.
- (4) A summary of research findings from the research funded by the awarded grants.

This report provides information addressing Items 1, 2, and 3. Per the program timeline outlined below, the research is scheduled to commence December 1, 2024. Thus, Item 4, the summary of research findings from the funded grants, will be included in the January 1, 2030 report.

¹The research granting infrastructure of RGPO was recognized in 2018 by the State of California as [optimizing the public benefits of state-funded research](#).

Program Timeline and Status

The Research Grants Program Office, in consultation with FIREScope, identified the strategic and funding priorities of the CFCPRP, and established the following timeline for issuing the Request for Proposals ([RFP](#)), soliciting and reviewing research proposals, and awarding grants:

RFP Release	January 18, 2024
Informational Webinar	January 29, 2024
Required Letter of Intent (LOI) Due	February 29, 2024
Invitation to Submit Application Issued	March 14, 2024
Full Application Due	June 13, 2024
Award Start Date	December 1, 2024

From January to June 2024, RGPO and FIREScope personnel worked together to provide technical assistance to both UC and fire service applicants to support partnership development and grant proposal inquiries. The research teams could apply for grants in one of two categories:

- **Pilot Award:** This award supports projects that lay the groundwork for larger future research efforts, including strengthening collaborations, developing tools and methods, testing feasibility, and collecting pilot data. Applicants could request up to \$300,000 in direct costs for a 2-year project, plus indirect costs.
- **Full Award:** This award is intended for projects with robust partnerships and fully developed research plans backed by preliminary data, executed by a well-integrated team of scientists and fire service members with a proven track record in research. Applicants could request up to \$750,000 in direct costs for a 3-year project, plus indirect costs.

All proposals were structured as partnerships composed of UC academic and California fire service organization research teams. Eligible proposals received by the submission deadline were forwarded to independent peer review by a panel comprised of technical academic and firefighter experts who followed a process modeled on NIH peer review. Proposals deemed technically meritorious by the peer review panel were then prioritized for funding by members of FIREScope who made the final recommendation for funding on October 22, 2024.

Funded Research

Table 1 lists the research grants recommended by FIREScope and selected for funding by the UCOP RGPO, and the names of the funded UC and fire service institutions and requested award amounts for each project. Additional inquiries about the Program may be directed to firefighter-cancer@ucop.edu. Program updates will be maintained on the [CFCPRP](#) website.

Table 1. California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program Selected Projects

	Grant Number	Grant Type	Eligible UC Institution	Fire Service Organization	Requested Award Amount	Project Title
1	FP8716	Pilot	UC Riverside	San Marcos Professional Firefighters Association	\$386,676	Firefighters' Perceptions and Behavioral Patterns: A Social Science Approach to Cancer Prevention
2	FP8725	Pilot	UC Los Angeles	Los Angeles County Fire Department	\$400,794	Identifying Carcinogenic Chemical Exposures in Firefighters to Reduce Cancer Risk
3	FP8745	Pilot	UC Davis	California Fire Chiefs Association	\$381,680	Characterization of mutagen-driven landscapes and signatures of tumors arising in firefighters.
4	FP8765	Pilot	UC Davis	Los Angeles County Fire Department	\$424,861	Individualized exposure assessment of firefighters to airborne carcinogens
5	FF8764	Full	UC Irvine	Orange County Fire Authority	\$964,434	Understanding Occupational Exposures to PFAS among Orange County Firefighters
6	FF8767	Full	UC Davis	Los Angeles County Fire Department	\$986,110	Examining Longitudinal Changes in DNA Methylation in Firefighters Exposed to Products of Combustion
7	FF8773	Full	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	San Jose Fire Fighters IAFF Local 230	\$1,353,348	Firefighter Indirect Smoke Exposure
8	FF8805	Full	UC Davis	Los Angeles County Fire Department	\$997,303	The California Firefighter Cancer Research Study: Harmonizing Cohorts to Elucidate Cancer Risks

Contact Information:
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