

Request for Applications

The Ohio State University Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

Spark Awards

Introducing the Spark Awards – a new initiative from the CTSI designed to enable preliminary work and generate essential data for both new and ongoing projects. This award is intended to provide investigators with the resources they need to effectively advance their research efforts. The goal of the Spark program is to jump-start new pilot studies with the goal of supporting future extramural grant applications or scientific initiatives.

- **Eligibility:** Investigators must meet these criteria:
 - Early to mid-stage career level
 - Post-Doctoral Fellow
 - Instructor, Assistant Professor
 - Associate Professor, less than two years of appointment at Ohio State/Nationwide Children's Hospital
 - *Please note: researchers in the following roles are not eligible for a Spark Award Students (undergraduate, graduate and medical), residents and CTSI funded investigators (K, T, Pilot, Element E)*
 - Principal Investigator (PI) status or a letter of exception at Ohio State or Nationwide Children's Hospital. PI eligibility information can be reviewed in the [Ohio State Office of Research Study Team Lookup website](#).
 - Spark awardees may receive only one SPARK award (single or collaborative) per funding cycle. A new funding cycle will start no earlier than August 1 of each subsequent year.
 - Exceptions may be made. Please contact CTSI-SPARK@osumc.edu for more information.

Award Amount: CTSI will award Spark Awards to Ohio State and Nationwide Children's Hospital investigators worth up to \$3,000. CTSI will award up to \$5,000 for projects involving researchers from two different Ohio State colleges or a collaboration between Ohio State and Nationwide Children's investigators.

Application Dates: Applications will be received through April 15, 2025, or until designated funds are exhausted.

Number of Awards: The program will make approximately 70 awards during 2024-2025.

Scope of Projects: All proposals must encompass activities to support a future grant application or major scientific initiative or provide additional support critical to the success of an existing project. In addition, proposals must fall into one of these categories: **clinical research**, **clinical implementation** or **public health**. For 2024-2025, the program will not support basic science or pre-clinical research proposals.

Contact CTSI-Spark@osumc.edu with questions

Use of Spark Award Funds: For this funding cycle, use of Spark Awards will be limited to these cores and services:

Biostatistical Services	Contacts
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Study Design (Clinical Trials and Population Studies)	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Data Analysis	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Grant/Manuscript Preparation	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Early Career Scholar Support	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Optometry Data Coordination and Analysis Center (DCAC)	jordan.646@osu.edu
College of Arts and Science - Statistical Consulting Service	scs@stat.osu.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Secondary Data Core	biostatistics@osumc.edu
Data Access Services	
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Data Access Analysis & Coordination (DAAC)	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - MarketScan	biostatistics@osumc.edu
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - PCORnet	pcori@osumc.edu ; biostatistics@osumc.edu
RIT – Secondary Data Access Services	rit-edc@osumc.edu
CTSI – LifeScale	LifeScale@osumc.edu
<p>Clinical Research Data Request through OSUMC Honest Broker Operations Committee (HBOC): Requests are assigned to Honest Brokers based on the <i>project area</i>.</p> <p>Note: A separate HBOC request needs to be submitted requesting for services after being awarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-oncology requests assigned to RIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ rit-data@osumc.edu • IHIS Imaging Data Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ rit-data@osumc.edu • BMI Faculty Data Requests College of Medicine Department of Biomedical Informatics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ biostatistics@osumc.edu

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Data Management Services	
College of Medicine Center for Biostatistics (COM-CfB) - Data Quality and Monitoring	biostatistics@osumc.edu
RIT - REDCap and Qualtrics	rit-edc@osumc.edu
RIT - Training and consults for Data Management	askrit@osumc.edu
RIT Data Engineering for deidentification of data and/or data pipelines/movement	Rit-data@osumc.edu
RIT - Research Computing Infrastructure – Data Storage	Ask-RIT@osumc.edu
Informatics Services	
RIT - Registries (REDCap, SCARLET, Cloud)	RIT-Data@osumc.edu
RIT - EHR Tools Building/Systems	askrit@osumc.edu
RIT – User-Centered Design and Software Development (Prototyping)	askrit@osumc.edu
RIT – Data Visualization	askrit@osumc.edu
Clinical Research Services	
CRC - Analytical and Development Lab	Emily.Brown@osumc.edu
CRC - Nursing Services	Emily.Brown@osumc.edu
CRC - Research Nutrition Lab	Emily.Brown@osumc.edu
NCH Research Services	
NCH - Biobehavioral Outcomes Core (BBOC)	Kathryn.Vannatta@nationwidechildrens.org
NCH - Biostatistics Resource at Nationwide Children’s Hospital (BRANCH)	BioStats@NationwideChildrens.org
NCH - Regulatory Affairs for Investigational New Drug (IND) or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) FDA Submissions	Regulatory@NationwideChildrens.org
NCH - Research Information Solutions and Innovation (RISI)	R&DIntake@nationwidechildrens.org

Spark awards will support services from these cores only. Please contact CTSI-Spark@osumc.edu for any questions related to these services or if there is a service you need that is not currently offered.

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How to Apply:

- Complete a [MyCTSI Profile](#)
- Contact the proposed core service and obtain a cost calculation (budget estimate) for the project. ***Your cost calculation must be completed before submitting your application.***
- Complete the Spark Awards application form, available at <https://redcap.link/fsh86tpn>. Make sure to answer all questions and attach your cost calculation.

Other Important Details:

- Funded projects must be IRB/ORRP approved prior to disbursement of funds. Applicants must satisfy all IRB/ORRP requirements, including required training and reporting of conflicts of interest.
- Spark Award applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications will be reviewed for eligibility, completeness, feasibility to complete within the required time frames, and scientific merit. Applications revisions may be requested by the program. Funding decisions should be available within four (4) weeks of application.
- All services supported by Spark Awards must be completed by July 31, 2025. All invoices must be received no later than August 31, 2025.
- Awardees must complete a post-award survey which will confirm any publications, abstracts and/or grant submissions/awards related to the Spark project.
- Awards may include funding from more than one core service.
- Research must be conducted within the US.
- Funded pharmaceutical or industry studies are not eligible for Spark Awards.

Awardees must be in good standing with CTSI (compliant with citing all publications and requirements of past CTSI funding).

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