



California Breast Cancer Research Program

Call for Applications

**Cycle 32
2025-2026**

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

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CBCRP Background

The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) is pleased to present our 2025-2026 Cycle 32 *Call for Applications*. **CBCRP funds research only in California.**

The mission of the CBCRP is to prevent and eliminate breast cancer by leading innovation in research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities.

In 1993, California breast cancer activists joined forces with scientists, clinicians, state legislators, and University of California officials to catapult the State into national leadership for breast cancer research. The activists, most of them women who had survived or currently had breast cancer, were impatient with the slow pace of progress against the disease. With their allies, they wrote and won passage of statewide legislation to push breast cancer research in new, creative directions. The California Breast Cancer Act increased the State tobacco tax by 2¢ per pack, with 45 percent of the revenue going to CBCRP. We also receive support from donations to a designated line on State income tax returns and from private contributions. CBCRP has provided more than \$314 million in research funds since 1993.

CBCRP Research Funding Priorities

The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) is committed to leveraging our resources to maximize impact in the fight against breast cancer. With revenues from the tobacco tax that funds the program projected to decline by 23% over the next five years, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure every dollar spent supports this mission.

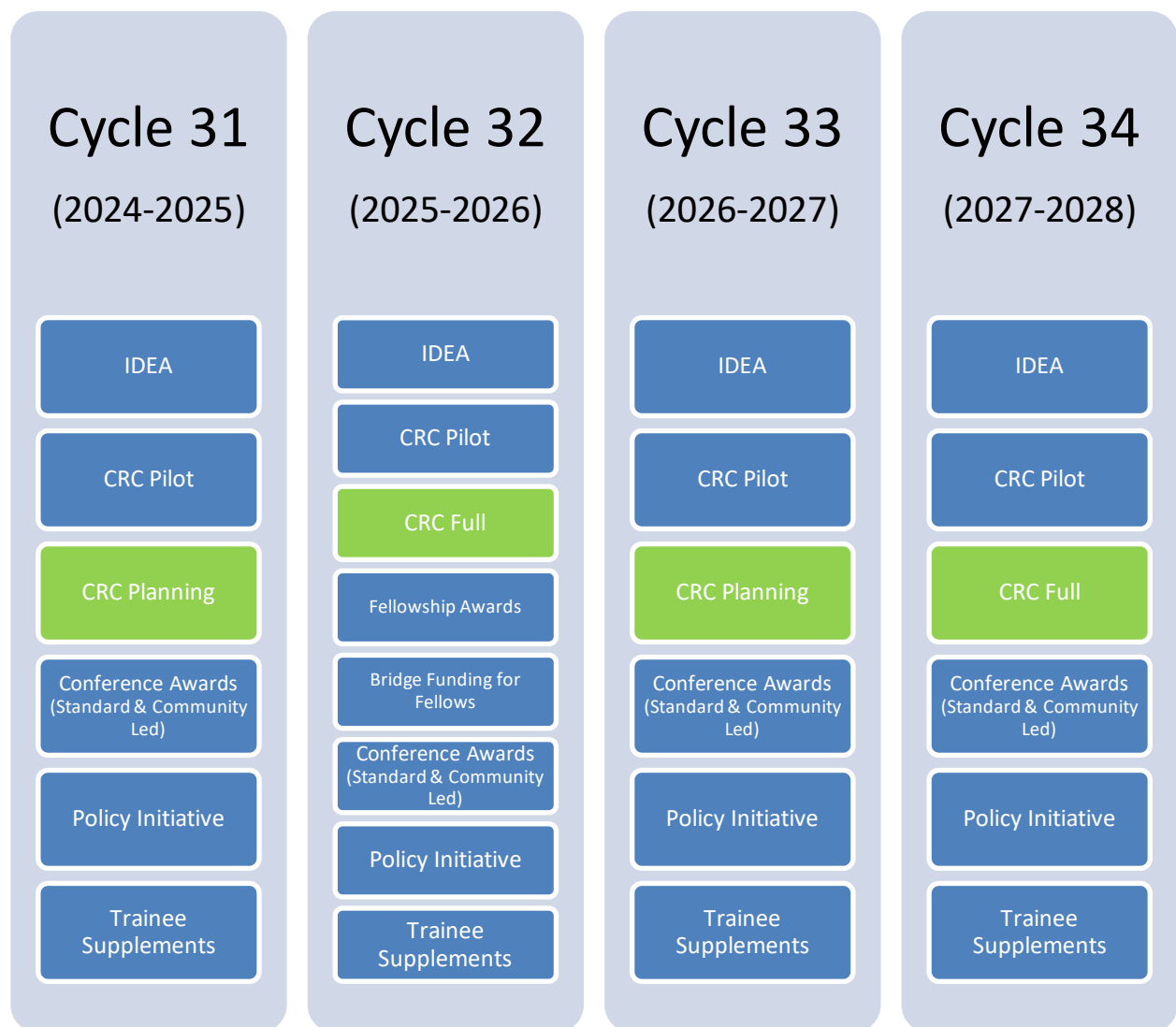
In April 2023, with guidance from the California Breast Cancer Research Council, CBCRP completed a comprehensive evaluation of our funding strategy. The analysis found that, while CBCRP has successfully supported research that meets and exceeds our goals, the current approach is not sustainable in light of the anticipated financial challenges.

In early 2025, our Council also considered recent shifts in federal research funding priorities and their implications for breast cancer research. In response, we developed a new funding strategy that maintains our core values while focusing on areas where CBCRP can have a unique and meaningful impact within the broader research landscape.

Key features of the new funding strategy include:

- **Balanced Portfolio:** Allocating 50% of the research portfolio to coordinated, directed, and collaborative research that addresses strategic needs, and 50% to investigator-initiated research.
- **Fellows Support:** Introducing three new award types to support the next generation of breast cancer researchers:
 - **Bridge Funding for Fellows:** One-time awards of up to \$25,000 in direct costs for up to one year for predoctoral or postdoctoral fellows in California whose federal fellowships have been rescinded.
 - **Predocctoral Fellowships:** Up to \$60,000 annually (plus additional expenses) for up to two years for doctoral students in California conducting breast cancer research under the guidance of an established mentor.
 - **Postdoctoral Fellowships:** Up to \$70,000 annually (plus additional expenses) for up to two years for postdoctoral researchers at California institutions, mentored by experienced breast cancer researchers.
- **Innovative Research:** Annual Innovation, Developmental and Exploratory Awards (IDEAs) for innovative research ideas, with a direct cost cap of \$150,000 for up to 12 months, or \$200,000 for up to 18 months if involving animal or human subjects.
- **Community-Partnered Participatory Research:** Ongoing support through our Community Research Collaboration (CRC) awards:
 - **CRC Planning Grants:** New \$15,000 direct cost grants to support partnership development and grant preparation; offered in alternating cycles with CRC Full Awards (see the timeline of CBCRP award types for cycles 31-34 below).
 - **QuickStart Training:** Offered regularly to help launch new collaborations and investigators in CPPR.
 - **CRC Pilot Awards:** Offered annually with a direct cost cap of \$200,000.
 - **CRC Full Awards:** Offered every other year (\$600,000 direct costs).

- **Additional Opportunities:** Continued support for CBCRP Conference Awards (Standard and Community-Led), Policy Initiative Research, and Trainee Supplements to existing grants on an annual basis.
- **Programmatic Priorities:** We will continue to prioritize projects that aim to improve health outcomes and address the needs of populations historically underserved or underrepresented in breast cancer research. We also give priority to research that addresses issues unique to California or leverages California-specific resources.



The projected distribution of CBCRP funding allocated to our award types and initiatives for the 2025-2026 funding cycle is shown in the following table.

CBCRP Award Types and Initiatives	Projected Amount Available in 2025-2026
IDEA and Community Research Collaborations (CRC Pilot and Full Awards)	Approximately \$2.4 Million
Predocctoral Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships and Bridge Funding for Fellows	Approximately \$1.8 Million
CBCRP Conference Awards	\$50,000
Program-directed Initiatives (environment, disparities & prevention)*	Approximately \$700,000
Policy Initiative*	\$260,000

*The Program-Directed and Policy Initiative funds are distributed off-cycle on a project-specific basis. See the CBCRP website (<https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/sri/>) for more information.

Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application Deadlines

LOIs and applications must be submitted online through [SmartSimple](https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/) (<https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/>). Forms and instructions for LOIs and conference award applications will be available by September 1, 2025. The funding start date for all awards except the Conference Awards, Policy Initiative and Program Directed Initiative Awards will be August 1, 2026. The Standard Conference Award start date will be January 15, 2026, and the Community-Led Conference Award will be June 1, 2026. Start dates for Policy Initiative and Program Directed Initiative awards will be included in their specific Funding Opportunity Announcements.

PLEASE NOTE:

- CBCRP has only **one funding cycle** per year for IDEA, Community Research Collaboration, Standard Conference and Community-Led Conference Awards with the submission deadlines listed in the table below.
- Policy Initiative and Program Directed Initiative Awards are offered off-cycle. Contact us at getinfo@cbcrp.org to join our mailing list and be alerted when CBCRP releases these funding opportunities.
- The IDEA, Fellowships and Community-Led Conference Awards require a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** and a

subsequent invitation from CBCRP to submit a full application. We expect to issue invitations to at least half of those who submit IDEA LOI's and to all who submit Fellowship and Community-Led Conference Award LOI's that meet the eligibility requirements.

CBCRP Program (i.e., Award Type)	Application item	Submission date
Bridge Funding for Fellows	Full application	October 30, 2025
Predocutorial and Postdoctoral Fellowships	LOI (required) Full application	January 15, 2026 March 5, 2026
IDEA Award	LOI (required) Full application	October 16, 2025 March 5, 2026
Community Research Collaboration (CRC): Pilot & Full Awards	Full application	March 5, 2026
Conference Awards*	Standard – Full application Community-Led – LOI (required) Community-Led – Full application	October 30, 2025 October 30, 2025 February 19, 2026
Policy Initiative Awards	Visit https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/health-policy-initiative/ for current opportunities.	To Be Announced**
Program Directed Initiatives Awards	Visit https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/sri/ for current opportunities.	To Be Announced**

* Contact conferenceaward@cabreastcancer.org for information on Conference Awards.

** Program Directed Initiative RFPs will be released at least two months ahead of the submission deadline.

Application Review and Funding Process

Before applying to CBCRP for grant funding, you should consider our program's background, funding strategy, and existing portfolio. Our focus is specifically targeted to breast cancer, so researchers outside this field should cultivate collaborations or develop preliminary data in breast cancer prior to applying. CBCRP is committed to supporting projects by and about people who have been historically underserved and underrepresented in breast cancer research. Make sure your research project matches our priority issues and award types presented in this Call for Applications.

We encourage applicants to contact the CBCRP program officers at getinfo@cbcpr.org to discuss any questions about the selection of priority issue and award type.

To better understand our funding interests, we invite you to review the CBCRP-funded portfolio on our website (<https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/>). We are interested in funding novel topics not yet represented in the CBCRP portfolio or other funding agencies. If you have received prior CBCRP funding, it is especially important for you to distinguish a newly submitted project from past projects. We also encourage you to inspect your topic area on the [International Cancer Research Partnership](https://www.icrpartnership.org/) (ICRP) website: <https://www.icrpartnership.org/>.

You should carefully consider our evaluation and funding process. All applications except conference awards will be reviewed for scientific merit and programmatic relevance in multiple steps:

- **LOI Review:** The CBCRP Council will review IDEA LOI submissions and invite full applications from those that are most responsive to the programmatic review criteria, as outlined in the LOI submission instructions. Please note that feedback will not be provided on LOI decisions. For Fellowship applications, LOIs are also required; however, they will be reviewed solely by CBCRP staff to determine eligibility and will not undergo programmatic review.
- **Application peer review:** Out-of-state researchers and advocates will rate applications for scientific merit attributes (e.g., innovation, impact, approach, etc.) and provide written feedback.
- **Final programmatic review:** The CBCRP council will review scientifically meritorious applications for programmatic relevance, portfolio balance, advocacy involvement, and peer review panel funding recommendations.

The decision to offer funding is determined by a combination of scientific merit and programmatic responsiveness. Each award type has specific requirements that must be addressed by successful funded projects. Applicants should pay careful attention to both the **scientific and programmatic criteria** that will be used to make the funding decisions from the start of your proposal preparation. Visit the award type page at <https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/> to see the detailed descriptions of the components that constitute the scientific merit and programmatic evaluation.

Applicants will receive a detailed peer review evaluation summary with key points from the review committee discussion and information on the programmatic review and funding decision.

Advocacy Involvement in LOIs, Applications, and Funded Research

CBCRP was established through the vision and efforts of breast cancer advocates, and we are deeply committed to advocate involvement in all aspects of our program. Health and medical research projects greatly benefit from being directly informed by the experiences and knowledge of those affected: namely, those who have or had the disease, those who care for people with the disease, or those who represent a specific community impacted by the disease. CBCRP is dedicated to supporting and amplifying the voices of people who have historically been underrepresented in breast cancer research in our funded projects. Therefore, CBCRP requires breast cancer or other appropriate community advocates be actively involved in the research we fund.

Applicants are expected to work with California-based advocate(s) affiliated with an organization. CBCRP encourages applicants to work with advocates and advocacy organizations that bring perspectives that are not currently well-represented in breast cancer research. LOIs and applications are evaluated on the extent to which advocates are substantively involved in the project. Advocates from outside California participate in the peer review of every application, and California-based advocates represent one-third of the CBCRP council membership. CBCRP staff can assist applicants with meeting the advocacy involvement requirement.

CBCRP REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVOCACY INVOLVEMENT INCLUDE:

- **IDEA Award Letters of Intent.** The PI must show evidence of involvement of advocates. Specifically, provide the name of the advocacy/community organization that they plan to work with on the full application, describe why the organization is appropriate for the proposed research project, and attach written documentation (an email is sufficient) from the advocate or a representative of the advocacy organization demonstrating their willingness to participate in the research application, should the LOI be approved. In addition, describe the role of advocate/s in the project design, implementation, interpretation, and dissemination.
- **IDEA Award full applications.** Requirements include involving appropriate advocate(s) in the proposed research; a detailed description of how the advocate(s) will be involved in the project; submission of a Letter of Commitment co-signed by the advocate(s) and the PI; and a budget line item and justification covering the advocate(s) time, effort, and expenses on the project. The PI, research staff and advocate(s) must hold at least quarterly, in-person meetings to discuss project progress and plans.

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- **IDEA Award Active Grants.** The PI and the designated advocacy or community organization must hold regular planned meetings (at least quarterly) to discuss project progress and how it can address priorities important to the community that the advocate represents.
 - **Community Research Collaborations (CRC).** Advocacy involvement in the CRC Awards is distinct from that of the IDEA, due to the structure of the project. CRCs are community based participatory research, which includes collaborative decision-making and shared power in all phases of a research project. Therefore, in the CRC Awards, a Community Co-PI is an equal partner in the investigative team with an Academic Co-PI. Community Co-PIs can have a range of experience with advocacy-related work specific to breast cancer. Community Co-PIs must have strong and significant ties to the community that is of interest in the project. Additionally, the investigative team must involve the larger community in the project (e.g., through acting as project staff and engaging in community engagement and dissemination).

It is important to consider the perspective of those involved in research. For that reason, if your project includes a specific population of interest (for example, men with breast cancer), you should include one or more advocates from an organization that represents that population. You should also involve an advocate who is based in California and knows the breast cancer landscape in the state.

If you have never worked with breast cancer or community advocates on a research project before, please check out the Advocacy Resources (<https://www.cbcrp.org/approach/advocacy-involvement/>) on our website and feel free to contact the CBCRP staff to help get you started.

HOW DOES ADVOCACY INVOLVEMENT STRENGTHEN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH?

CBCRP aims to fund research that will make an immediate impact on breast cancer. We believe that the best way to achieve this goal is to utilize the talents and knowledge of all members of the breast cancer community. Advocates are closer to the practical applications of the research findings and can identify the needs of patients, families and communities that still need to be addressed. They help to ensure that the research is relevant and that the research findings are applied as soon as it is feasible.

What does advocacy involvement do for research and the community?

- Focuses research on questions of greatest relevance
- Provides encouragement to researchers and emphasizes the urgency of finding solutions
- Improves the quality of the research (e.g., increases validity of survey instruments, improves recruitment and retention of participants, encourages culturally competent interpretation of findings)
- Encourages practical application of research findings
- Facilitates more effective dissemination of research findings to affected communities, health care providers, and policymakers
- Increases funding for research
- Informs lay people about the research that affects their lives, families and communities
- Empowers advocates to guide the breast cancer research agenda to answer their questions

CBCRP Research Priority Issues

To be responsive and eligible for funding, each applicant must explain how their proposed research addresses one or more of our priority issues. CBCRP is especially interested in projects that address questions that specifically impact Californians and/or leverage resources that are unique to California. The descriptions below are intended to cover broad breast cancer research topics and the *examples* provided are not all inclusive.

I. The Community Impact of Breast Cancer: The Social Context

Overview: What are factors that contribute to the unequal burden of breast cancer across communities? Are there policy alternatives that would increase access to prevention, risk reduction, detection, treatment, support, and/or survivorship services for groups who have historically faced barriers to access? For example, what is

the influence of poverty, environmental factors, pollution, and/or housing instability on breast cancer? What are the sociocultural, behavioral, and psychological issues of people affected by breast cancer and what services are needed to reduce the suffering caused by the disease? We encourage health policy; health services; and sociocultural, behavioral, and psychological research that address these topics and more in relation to the burden of breast cancer among California communities.

Specific topics include:

- **Health Policy**

We encourage research examining the impact of public and private health policy on issues related to prevention, risk reduction, detection, and treatment of breast cancer as well as research into the formulation of policy alternatives that would reduce disparities related to prevention, risk reduction, detection, survivorship, and treatment of breast cancer.

- **Health Services**

We encourage research examining the delivery of breast cancer-related services and how to most effectively deliver services, especially to communities that have historically faced disproportional barriers to access.

- **Sociocultural, Behavioral and Psychological Issues Relevant to Breast Cancer: The Human Side**

We encourage research into the sociocultural, behavioral, and psychological issues of people affected by breast cancer or who are at high risk for developing the disease. Research that examines patient and practitioner interactions, enhancing quality of life, long-term survival, and participation in clinical research is encouraged; especially research addressing the needs of people with a higher risk of developing breast cancer and groups that have been identified as disproportionately underserved by breast cancer research and service providers.

- **Disparities: Eliminating the Unequal Burden of Breast Cancer**

We encourage research that aims to reduce disparities in breast cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality. These include disparities in access to prevention, risk reduction, treatment, and/or survivorship services. Intervention research that promotes health equity and reduces disparities is encouraged.

II. Etiology and Prevention: Finding the Underlying Causes

Overview: What environmental and biological factors interact to increase the risk of developing breast cancer? What approaches can be used to reduce or eliminate breast cancer risk? We especially encourage new

California-based studies that seek an understanding of the environmental and lifestyle causes of breast cancer, and how these factors increase risk and impact different California communities, especially those communities bearing a disproportionately high burden of breast cancer health-related problems, risk factors and/or health access disparities.

Specific topics include:

- **Etiology: The Role of Environment and Lifestyle**

We encourage studies on breast cancer initiation that may be due to environmental exposures that subject women to agents that they, as individuals, cannot control. Other key topics of interest include breast cancer causes related to lifestyle (e.g., diet, exercise) and the underlying metabolic, hormonal, and environmental interactions. Studies on causative gene-environment interactions specific to breast cancer, especially those having the potential to lead to prevention strategies, are encouraged. We encourage studies focusing on communities disproportionately affected by potential breast cancer risk factors and/or the burden of breast cancer.

- **Prevention and Risk Reduction: Ending the Danger of Breast Cancer**

Research exploring methods to prevent breast cancer or reduce risk, including elimination of external causative factors and the identification of surrogate markers for use in prevention trials are encouraged. Examples include nutritional factors, xenoestrogens, exercise, studies of genetic variation, and methods to modify known breast cancer genes and risk factors. Basic science research (e.g., using molecular, cell, and animal models) on the genetic, mechanistic causes of breast cancer (e.g., p53 and BRCA genes) should be submitted under the **Biology of the Breast Cell** topic. We encourage studies addressing pressing breast cancer prevention and risk reduction issues in communities traditionally underserved by health care and research programs and/or where disparities exist.

III. Biology of the Breast Cell: The Basic Science of the Disease

Overview: Although basic science research in cancer is well-supported by other agencies, there remains a critical need to understand the pre-neoplastic, causative events of breast cancer at the tissue level, including the stroma. The genetic changes in disease progression and the tumor heterogeneity need clarification at the basic science level. Research into the mechanisms behind variances in tumor biology presenting in different populations is especially encouraged.

Specific topics include:

- **Biology of the Normal Breast: The Starting Point**

Research should explore aspects of normal breast biology (e.g., aging) that are linked to the earliest stages of breast cancer, and which could provide insights into new approaches to prevent, detect, or treat the disease. This could include an examination of the impact of menarche, menopause, oral contraceptives, postmenopausal estrogens, and irregular hormonal cycling on changes in breast tissue and breast cells specifically. Studies investigating biological mechanisms that will help to understand and address breast cancer disparities are encouraged.

- **Pathogenesis: Understanding the Disease**

Research must specifically focus on breast cancer tumor and stromal biology, including: (1) studies of relevant proteins and genes with an emphasis on their relationship to the actual disease, and (2) elucidating key cell signaling, growth control, cell cycle, and apoptosis pathways. We especially encourage new research on the process of metastasis and the development of tools and models to better understand the key metastatic events that impact patient survival. Further, research is needed on the endogenous or exogenous triggers or protective factors for recurrent disease, particularly aspects of disease that if addressed, could contribute to the reduction or elimination of disparities apparent in distinct communities.

IV. Detection, Prognosis and Treatment: Delivering Clinical Solutions

Overview: Clinical advances for breast cancer will utilize novel imaging technologies, new biomarkers, and genomic/proteomic approaches for more accurate diagnosis and prognosis. We encourage projects whose aims are on the critical path for translation. We support research into less toxic and more individualized therapies, mechanisms of drug resistance, and studies to evaluate alternative medicines and natural products. We encourage research that recognizes the critical role that the delivery of clinical solutions has on health equity.

Specific topics include:

- **Imaging, Biomarkers, and Molecular Pathology: Improving Detection and Diagnosis**

We encourage research into new, cost-effective technological and biological approaches for molecular imaging and new approaches for tumor analysis at the individual patient level. This includes advanced types of molecular classification, new biomarker development, and improved technologies for patient diagnosis and prognosis, especially using techniques to replace the current practice of screening mammography and biopsy. We encourage studies that consider the extent to which the proposed new approaches can be accessible and beneficial to communities with limited access to health care.

- **Innovative Treatment Modalities: Searching for a Cure**

Promising leads from biology-based studies are encouraged to begin the critical path to clinical translation. Examples include immunotherapy, delivery technologies, gene therapy, new drug development/testing, and new approaches to clinical decision-making. Testing investigational anti-breast cancer agents for mechanism of action and identifying patient populations for which they are most effective are encouraged. We encourage an emphasis on patient populations bearing a disproportionate burden of the disease and/or lack of access to research and clinical treatment advances.

CBCRP Award Types

CBCRP FELLOWSHIPS

Purpose/Requirements: The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) is committed to supporting the next generation of breast cancer researchers. Recent changes in federal research priorities have created critical funding gaps—particularly affecting early-career scientists, trainees, and fellows—at a vulnerable stage in their careers. To address this, CBCRP is launching Bridge Funding Awards and re-instituting Full Fellowship Awards for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows in our 2025–2026 Call for Applications.

These awards aim to foster training in research areas identified by scientists, clinicians, advocates, and policymakers as essential to advancing our understanding, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer. CBCRP Fellowships are open to all eligible applicants, including individuals from groups historically underrepresented in breast cancer research and those focused on environmental contributors, health disparities, and population-level prevention.

In accordance with state and federal law, preference will not be given based on race, color, ethnicity, gender, or national origin.

Applicants may apply for both a Fellowship and a Bridge Funding for Fellows Award in the same cycle.

Three CBCRP Fellowship funding mechanisms are available:

Bridge Funding for Fellows

Purpose/Requirements: Supports predoctoral or postdoctoral fellows in California whose breast cancer-focused federal training support was prematurely terminated in 2025. These awards help fellows complete existing work and prepare for transition to new research settings or positions.

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- Fellows must be currently enrolled in a graduate program (terminal master's or doctoral) or hold a postdoctoral fellow title at a California institution.
 - The breast cancer project must align with CBCRP Priority Areas.
 - Applicants must provide evidence of project termination by a federal agency between January 6 and October 30, 2025.
 - The mentor must be a breast cancer researcher with current funding or recent publications (since 2023) as first or senior author.
 - Application must be submitted by the PI of the terminated federal award.

Project Duration & Budget Caps:

- Up to \$25,000 in direct costs
- Up to 12 months
- Allowable costs include stipend/salary, insurance, tuition, supplies, and travel
- Indirect costs are not allowed

Predoctoral Fellowships

Purpose/Requirements: Supports doctoral students enrolled in a graduate program at a California institution, conducting breast cancer research under the mentorship of an established investigator. The applicant (PI) must prepare the application and have advanced to candidacy by the award start date. U.S. citizenship is not required. The mentor must be full-time independent faculty with active breast cancer research funding or recent publications since 2023.

Project Duration & Budget Caps:

- Up to \$60,000 stipend annually, plus allowable expenses (insurance, tuition, supplies, travel)
- Up to 2 years
- PI must devote 75% FTE to the project and training activities
- Indirect costs are not allowed

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Purpose/Requirements: Supports postdoctoral researchers at California institutions pursuing breast cancer research under the guidance of an experienced mentor. Applicants must have or expect to hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent) by the award start date and be employed as a postdoctoral fellow or equivalent. U.S. citizenship is not required. Mentors must be full-time faculty with recent breast cancer research experience or collaboration.

Project Duration & Budget Caps:

- Up to \$70,000 stipend/salary annually, plus allowable expenses (insurance, supplies, travel)
- Up to 2 years
- PI must devote 75% FTE to the project
- Indirect costs are not allowed

Letters of Intent (LOIs)

LOIs are required for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship applications. CBCRP staff will review LOIs on a rolling basis to confirm eligibility, fellowship status at a California institution, and alignment with CBCRP Priority Areas. Applicants will receive a response within 5 business days of submission. Only applicants with approved LOIs may submit full applications.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by the stated deadline to be considered. The LOI should:

- Provide a brief, non-technical summary of the proposed research project, including:
 - The specific aims of the research
 - The fellow's current training status at the applicant institution
 - A description of the planned training activities
- Be written in plain language that is understandable to the general public
- Avoid jargon, acronyms, and technical terminology
- Use a tone and style similar to a local newspaper or general-interest magazine article

Fellowship LOI decisions and invitations to submit a full grant application will be communicated to applicants within 5 working days of submission.

Please contact Katherine McKenzie at getinfo@cabreastcancer.org or (888) 313-BCRP (2277) for questions.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS

Purpose/Requirements: The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) believes that communities affected by breast cancer can take a leading role in research into the disease. Since 1997, our Community Research Collaboration (CRC) awards have funded community organizations—such as breast cancer advocacy organizations, community clinics, and other organizations serving women with breast cancer—to work in teams with well-trained, experienced academically-trained partners. The teams work collaboratively through each stage of the research process, including: decision-making on which breast cancer questions are most important to them; determining the best research methods to use to answer these questions; gathering and interpreting data; and communicating findings to other community members, scientists, and the public. CRC teams have carried out sound and reliable research and have generated results that can be applied to other communities. CRC teams are realizing CBCRP's vision of funding innovative and

important research that will reduce the suffering caused by breast cancer and impact public health outcomes by combining the existing knowledge, interest, expertise, and resources of communities and academically-trained partners.

We invite you to become part of this tradition of innovative community-partnered participatory research by applying for a CRC award. More information about the CRC awards, including issues to consider and the types of projects we fund, can be found on our website at <https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/crc/>.

Three CRC funding mechanisms are available:

- The **CRC Planning award** supports the planning phase and writing of a grant proposal. The CRC Planning award is offered every other year and **will be offered in 2026-2027**.
- The **CRC Pilot award** supports the initial phase of the project, which includes strengthening collaborations, developing feasible methods and tools, and collecting pilot data. This award type is offered yearly.
- The **CRC Full award** funds projects with a fully developed research plan and supporting preliminary data, carried out by a well-integrated, experienced team of scientists and community members. The CRC Full award is offered every other year and **will be offered this year (2025-2026)**.

Project Duration & Budget Caps:

CRC Planning award

12 months maximum duration

Budget cap for total project direct costs is \$15,000.

The planning grant also provides fellowship to cover participation in a community-partnered participatory research (CPPR) technical support program (QuickStart). Grantees are required to attend the free program as a condition of the award.

CRC Pilot award

18 months maximum duration

Budget cap for total project direct costs is \$200,000.

CRC Full award

3 years maximum duration

Budget cap for total project direct costs is \$600,000.

All CRC awards are eligible for indirect costs recovery. UC campuses receive a maximum institutional F&A of

35% Modified Total Direct Cost base (MTDC) (25% for off-campus projects). All other institutions are eligible for indirect costs of up to 25% MTDC or the rate established for the institution through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (or another similarly established rate), whichever is higher.

Technical Assistance: Resources are available at CBCRP to help CRC applicants with finding a partner, thinking through research ideas or partnership plans, and preparing applications for the CRC awards. We offer one-on-one assistance as well as online webinars.

Contact Sen Fernandez Poole at crcinfo@cabreastcancer.org or by calling (888) 313-BCRP (2277) to learn more about any of these technical assistance opportunities. Additional information on the awards and technical assistance can be found at <https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/crc/>.

INNOVATIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EXPLORATORY AWARDS (IDEA)

Purpose/Requirements: To support speculative, exploratory, high-risk/high-reward projects with a *primary focus on breast cancer*. Applications for this award type should challenge existing paradigms, represent a new direction for the PI, and encourage innovation by the incorporation of techniques and approaches not yet well represented in mainstream breast cancer research. We encourage researchers to attempt breakthroughs that, if successful, could be leveraged into more substantial funding. Both established researchers and new investigators (see below) are welcome to apply.

Examples of research **not** responsive to the IDEA are projects that: (1) propose incremental advances for the underlying topic, (2) duplicate the aims of completed or funded research to the PI derived from non-breast cancer studies without incorporating detailed breast cancer-specific justification, (3) overlap in topic and aims with current grant support to the applicant, or (4) represent portions of existing grants or are derived from larger, R01-type projects. *To be maximally responsive to the IDEA funding mechanism, the applicant must either be previously trained and have published in breast cancer or collaborate with an established breast cancer researcher.* IDEA applicants are required to explain how the research project is on a “critical path” to substantially advance the topic under investigation.

IDEAs for new investigators: Researchers at a career level beyond postdoctoral training (or equivalent) and less than three years as an independent investigator (e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent), or entering research from another field, are encouraged to apply for IDEA grants. During the peer review process, the applicant’s prior research history and accomplishments will be rated less stringently than for IDEAs from established investigators.

Project Duration & Budget Caps:

- **18 months maximum duration**
- **Budget cap for total project direct costs is either \$150,000 or \$200,000** (higher cap is for projects using animal or human participants). Modified Total Direct Cost base (MTDC); UC campuses receive a maximum institutional F&A of 35% MTDC (25% for off-campus projects). All other institutions are eligible for indirect costs of up to 25% MTDC or the rate established for the institution through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (or another similarly established rate), whichever is higher.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by the deadline in order to be considered. The LOI must:

- Provide a brief background, rationale or purpose for the project specific to breast cancer in lay terms.
- Describe a novel, innovative topic and/or approach for the proposed research that is linked to a CBCRP priority issue.
- Explain how the project is a key portion of the “critical path” from basic knowledge, hypothesis-testing to a practical application specific to breast cancer at either the patient or community level.
- Show evidence of involvement of advocates. Specifically, name the advocacy/community organization, describe why the organization is appropriate for the proposed research project, describe the role of the advocate/s in the project design, implementation, interpretation, and dissemination, and attach written documentation (an email is sufficient) from the advocate or a representative of the advocacy organization demonstrating their willingness to participate in the research application, should the LOI be approved.

IDEA LOI decisions and invitations to submit a full grant application will be communicated to PIs in December 2025.

CBCRP CONFERENCE AWARDS

CBCRP is offering two types of Conference Awards this year. The Standard award is open to all applicants who have the capacity to host an event that satisfies the criteria below. The Community-Led award supports grassroots organizations that need more time or resources to develop and execute a successful event. Community-Led Conference award applicants will submit a letter of intent prior to submitting a full application. The council will provide feedback that the applicant may use in preparing the application for the award.

Purpose/Requirements: To inform, stimulate ideas and foster research specific to breast cancer. Successful events will be designed to address one or more of the following goals:

- highlight resources particular to California
- encourage new collaborations
- recruit high quality researchers to the field
- examine and create solutions for disparities/inequities
- inspire paradigm-shifting research
- inform policy
- promote translational and/or outcome driven research that will impact public health outcomes
- create tools for educating members of the public about breast cancer

At least one major objective of the conference or event must focus on breast cancer and at least 50% of the event must be devoted to accomplishing the breast cancer objective(s). Funding preference will be given to events that bring together people with different perspectives who do not usually meet and exchange views, and to events that are more likely to lead to new research projects and new collaborations.

Events may take place in person, virtually or in some combination. Some format options include: (1) a symposium or webinar with formal presentations and targeted breakout sessions, (2) a retreat that emphasizes less formal interactions, or (3) a conference style 'roundtable' discussion of pertinent issues without pre-existing leadership roles established. It is expected that researchers and, breast cancer advocates/activists, and the general public will be included in the meeting planning, organization and participation.

The event organizers must designate a specific use of CBCRP funds (e.g. scholarships, a specific session or activity) and give CBCRP name recognition for it in event materials. The requested budget can exceed the cost of the particular session or activity, but the additional items must also be distinguished from the overall budget. An awards banquet or reception is not appropriate for sponsorship.

The event must deliver a product that will further breast cancer research, education and/or policy development. Examples of products include, but are not limited to:

- A description of new breast cancer research aims/priorities identified by meeting attendees
- New cutting edge technology, instruments, communication tools
- A list and description of new investigators/potential researchers/advocates that have been introduced to the field
- Syllabus of presented papers and any planned papers
- Action plan for supporting new collaborations

It is strongly recommended that event organizers include a plan for video recording the key presentations for potential distribution on the organization's and CBCRP web site.

Advocates must be involved in each phase of the event, including planning, implementation, participation in the program and attendance. CBCRP staff involvement in the event planning and implementation, and attendance

by members of CBCRP staff and Council must be permitted.

Budget: Up to \$25,000 in direct costs will be awarded per successful application. F&A (indirect) costs are not allowed. CBCRP intends to fund at least one standard award and one community-led award and will distribute up to \$50,000 in Conference Awards each year.

If an award is made, then it can take up to three months to disburse funds. CBCRP will require a written conference report and a fiscal report within 90 days of completion of event activities.

Please contact Katherine McKenzie at conferenceaward@cabreastcancer.org or (888) 313-BCRP (2277) for questions.

PROGRAM-DIRECTED INITIATIVES

Purpose/Requirements: The program-directed initiatives awards are designed to support coordinated, directed, and collaborative research on the role of the environment and disparities in breast cancer, and primary prevention of the disease. The purpose is to leverage California's unique and diverse geographic, population, and research resources to support critical studies that significantly move these fields forward and create solutions.

Information about the program-directed initiative aims and background is available on [our website](https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/sri/) (<https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/sri/>). Funding opportunities for the Program-directed Initiatives will be posted there as the information becomes available.

CBCRP currently reserves 50% of annual research funds for program-directed initiatives. Three award mechanisms are used:

- **Request for Qualifications (RFQs)** to solicit applications to identify the most qualified researcher to conduct studies with specific pre-determined research questions and plans.
- **Program Directed Awards (PDAs)** to fund crucial projects identified during the Program-Directed Initiative strategy development proposed by the Steering Committee and approved by the CBCRP council.
- **Request for Proposals (RFPs)** investigator-initiated applications, similar to our Core Funding, responding to a specific initiative topic.

As with other CBCRP award mechanisms, applications are reviewed and scored for scientific merit by out-of-state peer and advocate reviewers to minimize possible conflicts of interest. The final funding recommendations are made by CBCRP's council.

POLICY INITIATIVE

Purpose/Budget: Up to \$260,000 will be allocated annually for a rapid-response mechanism to fund Policy research issues.

The Policy Initiative award is intended to close the gap between research and policy (both public and private) by funding research that contributes to creating an environment in California that leads to less breast cancer. CBCRP periodically releases funding opportunities about research questions that will fill gaps to quickly inform breast cancer relevant policy.

A description of the funding opportunities for the Policy Initiative award can be found at <https://www.cbcrp.org/funding-opportunities/health-policy-initiative/>. Those interested in receiving announcements of policy research funding opportunities are encouraged to contact healthpolicy@cabreastcancer.org. To submit ideas for policy research visit <https://www.cbcrp.org/priorities/sri/policy/call-for-topics.html>.

CBCRP TRAINEE SUPPLEMENTS

Once funded, Principal Investigators for any CBCRP grant award type, except for conference awards, fellowships and planning grants, may apply for supplemental funding. The CBCRP Trainee Supplement is intended to bring diverse perspectives to bear on the intransigent questions in breast cancer. Under the mentorship of a CBCRP-funded PI, this supplement will expose promising high school students, undergraduate students or community members who wish to pursue careers focused on questions affecting underrepresented communities to breast cancer research. Learn more about the CBCRP Trainee Supplement at <https://www.cbcrp.org/files/app-forms/cbcrp-trainee-suppl-instructions.pdf>.

General Information

Note the following eligibility requirements and conditions for receiving grant support from CBCRP. For questions about application requirements or procedures, email us at getinfo@cabreastcancer.org or call 888-313-2277 (BCRP).

Who May Apply	Conditions of Awards
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any individual or organization in California may submit an application. The research must be conducted primarily in California. We welcome investigators from community organizations, public or privately-owned corporations and other businesses, volunteer health organizations, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, laboratories, research institutions, colleges, and universities. The primary residence of the principal investigator must be in California. We encourage researchers new to breast cancer to apply. We recommend that applicants who have limited experience in scientific research or in scientific grant-writing collaborate with established breast cancer researchers in order to maximize specificity and impact on breast cancer. Re-submissions and previously funded PIs: All awards are open to re-submission from any two previous grant cycles. <u>Any resubmission for IDEA Awards must go through the LOI process.</u> Previously funded PIs are eligible to apply for new projects with distinct aims from the previous CBCRP grants. Multiple applications and grant limits: A PI may submit more than one application, but each must have unique specific aims. A PI is limited to a <i>maximum of two (2) grants either as PI or co-PI, and these must be in different award types.</i> Program Directed Initiative, Policy Initiative, CRC Planning Grants and Conference award funding are not included in this limit. A PI may have more than one Initiative award in a year. University of California Campus Employees: In accord with University of California policy, investigators who are University employees and who receive any part of their salary through the University must submit grant proposals through their campus 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All grant recipients must satisfy the standard requirements for receiving an award or modified requirements, if appropriate, as determined by the University of California. These requirements include fiscal management, accounting practices, liability insurance, bonding, indemnification of the UC Regents, non-discrimination in employment, and assurances regarding the treatment of animal or human subjects. Applicants do not have to meet these requirements at the time an application is reviewed, but no grant will be awarded until they are satisfied. Assurances – Human Material and Animal Subjects: Approvals for use of human material and animal research subjects are not required at the time of application. Applicants are encouraged to apply to the appropriate board or committee as soon as possible in order to expedite the start of the project, and you must do so before or within 21 days of notification that an award has been offered. This deadline may be negotiable depending on the circumstances of the proposal. If all reasonable efforts are not made to obtain appropriate approvals in a timely fashion, funds may be reallocated to other potential grantees' proposed research projects. Upon request, awardees must supply the following information or documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approved indirect (F&A) rate agreements as of the grant's start date and any derived budget calculations. Any missing application forms or materials, including detailed budgets and justifications for any subcontract(s). IRB or IACUC applications or approvals pertaining to the award. Resolution of any scientific overlap issues with other grants or pending applications. Resolution of any Review Committee and Program

<p>contracts and grants office ("Policy on the Requirement to Submit Proposals and to Receive Awards for Grants and Contracts through the University," Office of the President, December 15, 1994). Exceptions must be approved by the UC campus where the investigator is employed.</p>	<p>recommendations, including specific aims, award budget, or duration.</p> <p>f. Modify the title and lay abstract, if requested.</p> <p>4. All CBCRP grant recipients must abide by other pre- and post-award requirements pertaining to Cost Share, Indirect Cost Rates, Monitoring & Payment of Subcontracts, Conflict of Interest, Disclosure of Violations, Return of Interest, Equipment and Residual Supplies, Records Retention, Open Access, and Reporting as outlined in the Grants Administration Manual (GAM) available at: https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/grant-administration/index.html</p> <p>5. Intellectual Property: CBCRP does not retain rights to a funded grant's intellectual property. Patentable inventions or discoveries conceived or reduced to practice shall belong to the grant recipient. Copyright works are the property of the recipient. Other discoveries made or reduced to practice which may not be protected by patent or copyright, such as biological materials, plasmids, and cell lines, remain the property of the recipient to be licensed in the public interest. The recipient shall use reasonable efforts to achieve expeditious practical application of the patents, copyrights, and tangible research results.</p>
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CBCRP Funding Information and Contacts

	Website address	Contact information
IDEA Award Fellowships, and CBCRP Conference Award	https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/	Katherine McKenzie getinfo@cabreastcancer.org
Community Research Collaborations (CRC Planning, Pilot and Full Awards)	https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/crc/	Sen Fernandez Poole crcinfo@cabreastcancer.org
Program-directed Initiatives (environment, disparities & prevention)	https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/sri/	Sharima Rasanayagam sri@cabreastcancer.org
Policy Initiative	https://www.cbcpr.org/funding-opportunities/health-policy-initiative/	Sharima Rasanayagam healthpolicy@cabreastcancer.org
CBCRP-funded portfolio	https://www.cbcpr.org/funded-research.html	
International Cancer Research Portfolio (ICRP) website	https://www.icrpartnership.org/	
Questions about application instructions and forms		Research Grant Programs Office Contracts & Grants Unit RGPOgrants@ucop.edu
Technical Support for SmartSimple (including account and institution updates)		RGPOgrants@ucop.edu
General Information		getinfo@cbcpr.org 888-313-2277 (BCRP)

The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) is administered in the Research Grants Program Office, Office of Research and Innovation in the University of California, Office of the President.

California Breast Cancer Research Program
Research Grants Program Office
Office of Research and Innovation
University of California, Office of the President
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