

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do the research topics need to be aligned with the research needs listed on the Concrete Research Network Website?*

No, but an important requirement of the CRC Grant Proposal Guide is support of the research concept by an ACI Technical Committee. You must obtain a letter of support by the committee to include with your proposal. The list of research needs may be a good starting point to discuss with the committee chair.

2. *Does the research proposal topic need to be listed as a research need on the Concrete Research Network website first?*

No.

3. *Does the Executive Summary need its own page, like the title page? Is the recommended 300 words the maximum?*

Yes. Please create a separate page for the less-than-300 word summary.

4. *Does the ACI Foundation/Concrete Research Council provide grants internationally?*

Yes.

5. *Does the ACI Foundation/CRC provide grants to commercial companies?*

Yes, however, the ACI Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and must abide by the following guidelines:

- All research results must be publically disseminated;
- And the ACI Foundation does not fund proprietary materials research.

6. *What are the chances of my proposal being funded?*

For this cycle, the ACI Foundation/CRC is able to fund a minimum of 3 worthy proposals. CRC does not know how many proposals in total will be submitted. All submitted proposals will be reviewed, graded and ranked. Only the top four proposals submitted will be balloted for potential funding.

7. *What does CRC mean by “requires 0% overhead or indirect return”?*

The CRC gives gift grants and limits university overhead to 0%. The entire award must be used for the research project, and not for overhead costs. In the proposal, the waived indirect return (or overhead) must be listed in the proposed budget and as such the university is agreeing to it if the proposal gets awarded. The waived indirect return will be considered as cost sharing by CRC.

8. *Does the proposal section “Funding” need a detailed project budget with allocations and justification?*

The self-explanatory summary budget should be part of the 5-page main body. The reviewers should be able to understand the total cost, what percentage and amount is being asked of CRC, and what other funders are providing, whether money, in-kind or waived indirect costs. It should outline personnel time, travel, materials/supplies, tuition, direct and indirect costs in a simple table.

9. *When will we find out if we have received the grant?*

Within a few weeks after the spring ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition.

10. *The RFP does not stipulate a project duration. What duration is envisioned?*

As far as duration of the project, the reviewers look at total project scope versus cost. If the money is leveraged well to a large project, a 3-year duration might be reasonable. If the budget is limited to \$50,000, a 1-year duration is reasonable. Overall, most of the CRC awarded projects are from 2 to 3 years in length.

11. *The RFP states that cost sharing is encouraged, but if awarded, proof of cost sharing is required. This seems like a contradiction. Please explain.*

For the proposal: Cost sharing is encouraged, not required to receive a grant. The ACI Foundation maintains an interest in leveraging their funds, so a proposal that has cost sharing may be rated higher by reviewers.

For approved projects: If CRC approves to fund a project and there is cost sharing in the budget, CRC does not disperse the funds until it is documented that other organizations have sent written commitments. That is why CRC requires proof of cost sharing at this point. If CRC approves a project that has no cost sharing (except the waived university overhead), there is no requirement for commitment letters.