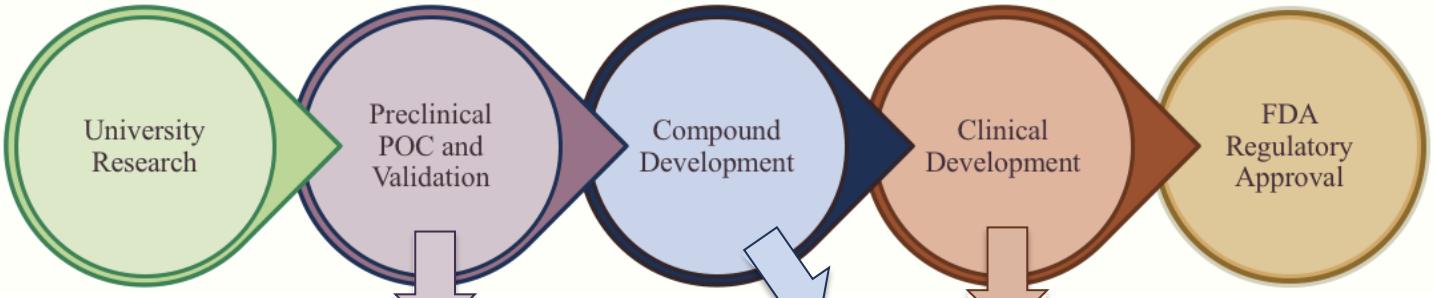
# CPRIT Announces New Seed Award Mechanism for Early-Stage Oncology Startups Seeking Non-Dilutive Funding

## Overview

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) introduces a new award mechanism for early-stage oncology startups. Under the Seed Award program, a company applies for up to $3M in nondilutive funding for the development of innovative cancer therapeutics, diagnostics, or tools.

The Seed Award is CPRIT's third active Product Development funding mechanism. CPRIT created the Seed Award for projects that are too early in their development timeline to be competitive for CPRIT's two existing Product Development awards: the Texas Company Award (TXCO) and the Company Relocation Award (RELCO). The goal of the Seed Award is to assist startups in bridging the gap between translational research and product development, thus bringing disruptive cancer-fighting technologies to market.

## Funding Opportunities Available via CPRIT's Product Development Program




### New Seed Award

- Companies developing a therapeutic or diagnostic targeting cancer can apply for up to $3M in project funding over a timeline of 3 years
- Company must currently be based in Texas, or commit to relocate to Texas upon receipt of award
- In the case of therapeutics, examples of the types of product development work funded by this grant mechanism include:
  - Perform target validation; select lead compound(s)
  - Perform target and cellular potency studies
  - Explore activity in xenograft models along with PKs and exposure; test whether concentrations that result in significant cell death *in vitro* can be safely achieved *in vivo*
  - Evaluate biopharmaceutical properties (absorption in rodent/non-rodents, clearance, and bioavailability)
  - Optimize synthetic route
  - Develop prototype clinical formulation
  - Expand preclinical safety characterization; perform PK and PD assessments
  - Evaluate biodistribution plan

### TXCO and RELCO Awards

- Companies developing a therapeutic or diagnostic targeting cancer can apply for up to $20M in project funding over a timeline of 3 years
- Company must currently be based in Texas, or commit to relocate to Texas upon receipt of award
- In the case of therapeutics, examples of the type of product development work funded by these grants mechanisms include:
  - Conducting IND-directed toxicology studies, including toxicokinetics
  - Manufacturing GMP-grade API
  - Determine preclinical MTD, DLTs and starting dose
  - Validate PK/PD assays and specimen handling SOPs
  - Develop and validate product characterization and release assays
  - Characterize clinical product
  - Prepare CMC package and toxicology summary report
  - Prepare and review clinical protocols
  - Prepare and file IND
  - Conduct Phase I and Phase IIa clinical studies

**For more information, please visit www.cprit.texas.gov or contact:**
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