



## SRGP – Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the objective of the Trusts' SRGP Program?**

The Trust designed its SRGP program to provide bridge funding to help researchers enhance their proposals competitiveness to obtain funding from private and/or federal agencies. The SRGP funds should help the scientist to: (1) obtain reproducible and robust preliminary results, (2) address any recommendations from previous grant reviewers to improve the R&D project to strengthen its position to obtain the grant and/or (3) secure reagents, laboratory materials, collaborations or additional technical training necessary for the proposed goals.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

The SRGP is open to researchers in public and private universities, colleges, and affiliated non-profit research institutions located in Puerto Rico. Ideal candidates fall into one of the following categories:

1. Junior faculty (within their first five years of their faculty appointment) with a competitive publication record, seeking to secure their first grants
2. PI's with a successful track record of securing funding in their primary research topic, but now embarking in a new research topic and seeking to secure a grant
3. PI's that applied for highly competitive federal/private funding that had their proposal favorably reviewed, but fell short of being funded and is planning to resubmit. In this case, the PI should provide a copy of the original feedback from reviewers or summary statement sent by the federal/private agency.

Individuals are not eligible to receive funding. All applicants must be affiliated with an academic institution, the state government, or other type of organization.

### **Can the SRGP funds be used to enhance proposals for any kind of private or federal funding program?**

No. The types of grants the SRGP seeks to bridge are those grants that qualify for tax exemptions under Law 101.

### **What is Law 101?**

Law 101 is a unique tax incentive to foster research and development (R&D) activity conducted at local universities in Puerto Rico, allowing qualified researchers to seek tax exemptions for salaries earned from eligible R&D research grants. For more information go to <http://prsciencetrust.org/law-101/>.

### **Could you give examples of the grants that do not qualify under Law 101?**

Yes, sheltered grants (restricted to minority serving institutions), infrastructure grants, supplemental grants, training or training fellowship grants, education project awards, career development awards, among others.



**Is there a penalty for the awardee if a proposal for a federal agency is not sent within 15-18 months after receiving the award?**

If the awardee does not submit a proposal in the established time frame, and does not provide a justification, he/she will not be considered for future funding by the Trust.

**Are indirect costs covered by the SRGP?**

No. Indirect costs are not eligible costs for this program.

**Can the SRGP funding be used for travel expenses?**

Travel expenses will only be covered if well justified and critical for the success of the proposal. For example, travel to a colleague laboratory to obtain preliminary data is allowed but not to present in a conference. Travel in Puerto Rico, including mileage, meals and lodging are not allowed cost under this program.

**Which projects will be considered for funding?**

To be eligible for funding, projects must be presented in one of the following strategic fields:

- (a) Biotechnology and Natural Sciences
- (b) Information and communications technology
- (c) Aerospace Technology
- (d) Medical Devices
- (e) Clean Technologies and/or Renewable Energy
- (f) Electronics
- (g) Agriculture
- (h) Environmental Sciences
- (i) Other related sciences

If you have questions as to whether or not your project qualifies for this program, just send us an email to [grants@prsciencetrust.org](mailto:grants@prsciencetrust.org) and we will be providing answers on case-by-case basis.

**Who will be evaluating the applications?**

Application selection and award recommendation decisions will be based on the advice of an External Review Committee (ERC). The ERC will be comprised of experts in areas of relevance to the funding priorities of the Trust and appropriate to the topics covered by the applications. To ensure a fair and open competition, ERC members will not take part in the review and selection deliberations involving any situation which could create a clear conflict of interest. Finally, ERC members will be required to sign a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement and respect the confidentiality of the information provided in proposals.

**Will the Trust sign confidentiality agreements with applicants for the purpose of reviewing proposals?**

No, the Trust will not sign confidentiality agreements with applicants for the purpose of reviewing the application. However, all reviewers must sign a conflict of interest and confidentiality certification. Further, the Trust discourages the inclusion of confidential/proprietary information as part of the proposal. Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, any other disclosure which may harm the applicant, should be included in applications only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project.

If the application includes such information, clearly mark each line or paragraph on the pages containing the proprietary/privileged information with a legend similar to: "The following contains



proprietary/privileged information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Trust, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

**How can I contact the Trust for questions about the SRGP?**

For questions about SRGP, you might contact us only through [grants@prsciencetrust.org](mailto:grants@prsciencetrust.org). Answers will be provided in 48-72 hours.