

FAQs – mRNA Victoria Activation Program (mAP)

1. Is collaboration mandatory?

No, collaborations are not mandatory for the Program but will be highly regarded.

Applicants that do have collaborations in place should identify collaborators at the EOI stage and indicate the roles and responsibilities of each collaborative partner, and how they will work together to maximise the project outcomes.

2. Can there be more than two collaborating partners?

Yes. You can add the details of any additional project partners in the EOI form.

3. Can international partners be involved in the project?

Yes, project partners can be international companies or researchers, as long as the project research activities will be predominantly led by and conducted in Victoria.

4. Is matching funding required?

No, mAP doesn't require a co-contribution from Applicants, however projects with an applicant co-contribution will be highly regarded.

5. Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount?

No. The Program encourages Applicants with bold ideas that will significantly contribute to growing the RNA ecosystem and requests that Applicants provide a realistic indication of the level of funding and time required to achieve these outcomes for their project.

6. If I am successful in Round One but then the scope of my project changes, can I apply for additional funding in Round Two?

mAP has no minimum or maximum grant request amount, so Applicants should seek to provide a thorough and substantiated estimate of reasonable project costs to avoid potential funding shortfalls once the project commences.

Round Two will not fund proposals that duplicate projects that have already received funding in Round One unless the scope of the project has changed significantly enough to deliver novel project outcomes that can be competitively assessed through the assessment process outlined in the Program Guidelines.

7. Does the research need to be conducted in Victoria?

No, however applicants must demonstrate that research activities will predominately be led by and conducted in Victoria.

8. Can international or interstate Companies or researchers apply as the lead applicant?

Yes, as long as the lead applicant meets the eligibility criteria and the research activities will be predominantly led by and conducted in Victoria.

9. Does the Chief Investigator need to be a woman to apply for this program?

No this is not an eligibility criterion, however if the Chief Investigator does identify as a woman the application will be awarded a 2.5% assessment weighting.

10. Does the research team need to consist of 50% women?

No this is not an eligibility criterion, however if the applicant attests that the project team consists of at least 50% women, the application will be awarded a 2.5% assessment weighting.

11. What if my project team isn't yet decided? Can I still attest that it will consist of 50% women when the project commences?

Yes, as long as you attest that at time of project commencement the project team will consist of 50% women you will be eligible for the 2.5% weighting.

Projects that are successfully awarded funding will be asked to complete a gender-equality survey as part of the first grant milestone reporting.

12. What are the key dates for the program?

Applications open: Friday 10 December 2021

Applications close: Wednesday 19 January 2022.

13. What is the earliest date that a project can commence?

Activities funded by the grant must commence following the execution of the grant agreement.

14. When will I hear about the outcome of my application?

To assist applicants, mRNA Victoria is targeting the following indicative timeline for assessment of applications:

- Applicants who have been invited to progress to a full application assessment stage will be notified approximately six weeks after EOI submissions close.
- Applicants invited to the full application assessment stage will have four weeks to submit.
- Applicants who have submitted an application to the full application assessment stage will be notified of their outcome approximately six weeks after submissions close.

However, these timelines are indicative only, Applicants are not to rely on these indicative timelines and DJPR accepts no liability in relation to any consequences attributable to reliance on this timeline.

15. Can I dispute the outcome of my application?

No, the decision from the expert assessment panel and the Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy will be final.

16. What if I need any further assistance?

- For more information view the program guidelines.
- For further assistance please contact us or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.
- For email inquiries relating to the mRNA Victoria Activation Program, contact mrnavictoria@ecodev.vic.gov.au

17. Who will own the Intellectual Property Rights of the project?

The Applicant Organisation will own all Research Project Intellectual Property.

18. What are the conditions of the grant?

As a condition of funding, successful applicants will be required to deliver regular project reports throughout the lifecycle of the grant agreement. Further conditions will be detailed in the funding agreement.

See the *Guidelines* for more information.