MICHR Accelerating Synergy Award FAQs

1. I did not submit a letter of intent. Can I still submit a full application?
   No. Only investigators who submitted a required letter of intent can submit a full application.

2. Is there letter of intent used in the review process?
   No. The letter of intent is used by the MICHR Pilot Grant Program to coordinate the review process.

3. Is there any advantage/disadvantage to applying to a specific mechanism (eg, Basic Science vs. Translational vs. Health Services)?
   No. All applications will be reviewed in the same study section, and only meritorious applications will be awarded, regardless of which mechanism they are classified.

4. My application proposes both basic and translational research. Under which mechanism do I apply?
   If your grant contains translational science, apply under the translational science mechanism. MICHR will reassign your application if needed, which will have no impact on subsequent review and funding decisions.

5. Am I eligible to apply for the Accelerating Synergy Award?
   All faculty with primary appointments at the University of Michigan are eligible to serve as principal investigators. Please see mechanism-specific eligibility requirements in the guidelines. To be most competitive for this funding, the principal investigator(s) will typically be mid-career faculty with a history of funding and publication success in the proposed field of research.

6. I do not have a history of partnership with my Co-PIs/Co-Is/collaborators. Is this the right pilot grant for me?
   To be competitive for an external large-scale grant, a history of partnership is needed among team members. Applicants will be most competitive for an Accelerating Synergy Award if some members of the team have previously collaborated.

7. I am not planning to submit an external large-scale grant in the next 1-2 years. Can I still apply for the Accelerating Synergy Award?
   It is expected that Accelerating Synergy awardees will apply for an external large-scale grant within 1-2 years of receiving Accelerating Synergy funding. MICHR has other pilot grants that may be more appropriate for your needs. You can find more information [here](#). Feel free to contact the [MICHR Pilot Grant Program](#) to discuss your specific needs.

8. It is mandatory that I identify an external large-scale FOA to which I would apply in the future?
   Yes, this is a required component of the application.

9. Can my team consist of faculty from other institutions?
   If the individual(s) outside of U-M will play a necessary role in the work proposed in the Accelerating Synergy Award, then yes.

10. What is the submission process for this grant?
    The submission process is outlined in the FOA, which can be found on our [website](#) or in [Competition Space](#). A letter of intent is required for the full application to be considered for funding.

11. Where can I find the guidelines?
    Guideline documents can be found on [Competition Space](#) under the competition files section, and they are also linked from our [website](#).
12. **What are the review criteria that will be used to score the proposals?**
   The review criteria can be found in the FOA, which can be found on our [website](#) or in [Competition Space](#).

13. **Can graduate research assistants or postdoctoral fellows be included in the budget?**
   Funds cannot be used to support graduate student tuition. Funds can be used to provide salary support for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with roles on the project unless they are already funded by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education program.

14. **If my proposal receives a fundable score, when will funds be released to begin work?**
   All studies supported under the Translational Science and Health Services Research mechanisms that involve vertebrate animals or human subjects must proceed to a second level of review by NIH. The subsequent timeline relies heavily on the PI to coordinate appropriate NIH materials and IRB/UCUCA approvals. Once materials are received by NIH, they require 30 days for review.

15. **Am I able to apply for additional Accelerating Synergy funding after being awarded funding in a previous round?**
   Awardees who received a Positioning grant in a previous round are eligible to apply under the Grant Development planning stage once Positioning funds are close to being expended. Grant Development awardees are not eligible for additional funding.