



# Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement Program Annual Report 2023

**Health Research Office**

**January 2025**



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Health**

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## Executive Summary

Chapter 9 of Act 2001-77, the Tobacco Settlement Act (Act) established the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement (CURE) Program within the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department). The program is administered by the Health Research Office.

The CURE Program awards grants to Pennsylvania-based organizations for biomedical, clinical, and health services research. Studies funded by the grants aim to improve the delivery of health care, promote health, prevent disease and injury, and translate research advances to community health care practice.

The Act provides for grant funding to be awarded pursuant to two types of health research grants:

- ❖ **Formula grants** - distributed to institutions that received funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) based on statutorily prescribed formula; and
- ❖ **Non-formula grants** - selected through a competitive application process. Non-formula grants include the spinal cord injury research grants.

Over the past 22 years, the Department has awarded more than \$1 billion in CURE Program grants (approximately \$875 million in Formula, approximately \$280 million in Non-formula grants, and approximately \$3.5 in Spinal Cord Injury Research grants) to over 60 organizations.

CURE program awards have led to research discoveries including new developments in smoking cessation; genome-based therapeutics; heart and lung disease; nutrition and obesity; addiction; pancreatic, liver, breast and lung cancers; leukemia; and spinal cord injury.

Grants have funded laboratory construction, state-of-the-art research equipment acquisition and maintenance, ongoing research programs, and novel research studies.

# Methods

## CURE Program Overview

The Act authorized the Department, through the CURE Program, to fund health research using tobacco settlement dollars. Of the tobacco settlement funds received in Pennsylvania, CURE receives 12.6 percent, of which 70 percent is awarded by “formula” to institutions that have previously received awards from NIH (Formula grants), and 30 percent is used for Non-formula competitive grants (one million dollars of the 30 percent is used for spinal cord injury research competitive grants). One percent of the tobacco settlement funds are an additional formulaic award to Formula grants that received funds from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

All research must be completed within four years of the grant start date. A Formula grant may be used to support more than one research project, and projects may focus on basic biomedical research, patient-oriented clinical investigations, or health services research. Up to 50 percent of the Formula and spinal cord injury research grant funds may be spent on infrastructure, which is defined in the Act to include office equipment and supplies, nonprofessional personnel, and laboratory or building construction, or renovations used to conduct research.

Research funds are awarded to projects that are consistent with the Department’s research priorities. In developing the health research priorities, consideration is to be given to the national health promotion and disease prevention objectives as applied to Pennsylvania. Priorities focus on critical research areas and the disparities in health status that occur among various populations within the Commonwealth.

## Formula Grants

Annually, NIH information is gathered on Pennsylvania institutions that received funds for the preceding federal fiscal year (FFY). Institutions that received three consecutive years of NIH funds are contacted for verification of the funding amounts. Upon receipt of the confirmation, the 70% allocated for Formula funds are distributed as follows: (1) 20 percent is distributed evenly amongst each institution that receives more than \$175 million as an average amount from the NIH during the three immediately preceding FFYs; (2) 17 percent is distributed evenly amongst each institution that receives more than \$175 million in federally sponsored research and development obligations in the immediately available preceding FFY as reported by the National Science Foundation and receives more than \$60 million as an average amount from the NIH during the three immediately preceding FFYs; and (3) the remaining funds are distributed to eligible institutions based on the percentage calculated by dividing an institution’s average award from the NIH for the three immediately preceding FFYs by the sum of the average annual award from the NIH for all of Pennsylvania-based eligible institutions during the three immediately preceding FFYs. Institutions that received NCI funds during each of the three immediately preceding FFYs receive additional funds when they fall under (3) above.

All health research fund recipients are required to complete a grant application, which contains information specified in the Act, as well as other information deemed necessary by the Department. The application includes a memorandum of understanding requiring

applicants to abide by federal ethical and procedural standards of conduct as prescribed by the NIH as of the date that the memorandum was executed.

## **Non-formula Grants**

The CURE program includes two research areas for Non-formula grants: 1) health; and 2) spinal cord research.

Through an annual Request for Application (RFA) process, the Department solicits research applications for both research areas. All eligible applications are then subjected to a peer review process similar to what is used by the NIH to review and rate the scientific merit of research proposals. Researchers, physicians, and scientists who possess expertise in the area addressed by the proposal serve on the peer review panels which assures that the proposals are rated by experts who understand the scientific merit and significance of complex, highly specialized research methodologies. The peer review panels also review the proposals to determine if there are any ethical issues. Their comments are then sent to the applicants.

### **1) Health Research**

Health research priorities are established by the Department, in conjunction with the Health Research Advisory Committee (HRAC).<sup>1</sup> Applicants that apply in response to an RFA related to the predetermined health research priority must meet certain eligibility criteria, and any specific requirements in the RFA. These health research priorities include: the opioid crisis, Alzheimer's, COVID-19, and pediatric cancer.

Specifically, an awardee must be Pennsylvania-based and must be (1) a person, (2) a non-profit entity that conducts research, (3) a hospital that conducts research and is established under the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L. 130, No. 48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, (4) an institution of higher education that conducts research, or (5) an entity established under the act of Aug. 24, 1951 (P.L. 1304, No. 315), known as the Local Health Administration Law. All applicants must have their primary research location within Pennsylvania. Entities other than general partnerships and sole proprietorships must be registered with the Department of State.

The research application is subject to a peer review. Following the peer review, the Department identifies members for an evaluation committee (Committee). The Committee reviews both the peer review panel comments and rankings, as well as the proposals, for duplication. The Committee then provides a recommendation to the Secretary of Health for the funding amounts to the top ranked proposals and provides additional comments for the applicants, if necessary.

Grant awards are made based on the amount of available funding, which has been decreasing in amount from year to year. For state fiscal year (SFY) 2023-2024 the amount was \$11,095,422. The awards are made based on the amount requested in

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<sup>1</sup> Since 2021, the Fiscal Code has overridden HRAC's recommended health research priority and has been set to pediatric cancer and biotechnology research.

the applications, the amount of funds available, the ranking of the proposals, and how many applications are to be funded.

## **2) Spinal Cord Research**

In October 2018, Act 126 of 2018 established the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program under CURE. This Act provided for the Department, in conjunction with the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC), to establish spinal cord injury research priorities. Similar to the health research process, institutions that apply in response to a spinal cord research RFA must also meet certain criteria.

More specifically, an eligible institution must conduct research on spinal cord injuries in this Commonwealth and be (1) a nonprofit entity that conducts research, (2) a hospital that conducts research and is established under the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L. 130, No. 48), known as the HealthCare Facilities Act, or (3) an institution of higher education that conducts research. All institutions must have their primary location within Pennsylvania and must be registered with the Department of State.

Act 126 of 2018, specifically Section 906(3)(i), established that no less than \$1,000,000 must be used for spinal cord injury research. The SCRAC identified three tier level maximum amounts for funding provided in RFA #67-175 for grant period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028. Tier 1 is Pilot Research grants in the amount up to \$100,000. Tier 2 is Standard Research grants in the amount up to \$150,000. Tier 3 is Clinical/Translational Research grants in the amount up to \$250,000. The awards are made based on the amount requested, the amount of funds available, the ranking of the proposals, and how many applications are to be funded.

## **Performance Review**

According to the Act, any applicant that receives a health research grant is subject to a performance review at the end of the research project or more often as deemed necessary by the Department. The Department contracted with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) to oversee and manage the performance review process. The performance reviews are based on the requirements specified in the Act and the criteria developed by the Department in consultation with the HRAC and SCRAC.

Research grant recipients submit annual and final progress reports that address the criteria listed below. Non-formula grants are subject to peer review prior to selection for funding by the Department.

Performance review evaluation criteria focus on:

- How well did the project meet its stated objectives? If objectives were not completely met, was reasonable progress made?
- What is the likely beneficial impact of this project? If the likely beneficial impact is small, is it judged reasonable considering the dollars budgeted?
- Did the project leverage additional funds, or were additional grant applications submitted as a result of the project?
- Did the project result in any peer-reviewed publications, licenses, patents or commercial development opportunities? Were any of these submitted/filed?

- Did the project enhance the quality and capacity for research at the grantee's institution?
- Did the project lead to collaboration with research partners outside of the institution or new involvement with the community?

## Assignment of Performance Review Ratings to Research Projects and Grants

Formula and Non-formula grants are reviewed and assigned an overall rating by at least three reviewers. These reviewers are experts in the technical fields of the project and who do not have conflicts of interest. Reviewers are instructed to base all comments in the documented responses on the evaluation criteria.

The final overall rating is the average rating obtained from all the reviewers. For Formula grants that consist of only one project, the overall grant rating will be the average overall rating for the research project. In the case of Formula grants with more than one research project, the overall grant rating is an average rating for all projects.

The rating is made according to the following guidelines:

- **Outstanding**, 1.00 – 1.33, indicates that: (1) major strengths were identified throughout the project with few weaknesses; (2) the project met all or most of its stated objectives; and (3) the project is likely to have some beneficial impact.
- **Favorable**, 1.34 – 2.66, indicates that: (1) strengths were identified within the project with one or more weaknesses; (2) the project met some of its stated objectives and/or made acceptable progress to do so; and/or (3) the project may or may not have a beneficial impact.
- **Unfavorable**, 2.67 – 3.00, indicates that: (1) major weaknesses were identified that are pervasive throughout the project; (2) the project did not meet any of its objectives or did not make any acceptable progress to meet the objectives; (3) the project is not likely to have any beneficial impact; and/or (4) insufficient data and information were provided to support the fact that the project met any of its objectives or made acceptable progress; or (5) the information and data provided were not applicable to the project objectives listed in the strategic plan.

## Use and Impact of Performance Review Reports

Grant recipients receive a report of the performance review. The report includes: overall rating for the grant, ratings for each project, reviewer comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the project/grant, and recommendations for future improvement. Grant recipients are required to submit a written response describing how the weaknesses and recommendations will be addressed in future health research grants.

The principal investigator (PI) of the project/grant that receives an unfavorable performance review may become ineligible for health research funding in the future. The consequence of receiving one unfavorable project/grant rating is a written warning outlining the expectations for any future project submissions and/or the inability to apply for a Non-formula grant for two state fiscal years. A second consecutive unfavorable project/grant rating may identify the PI as ineligible for two years of research grant funding. A third consecutive unfavorable



project/grant rating may identify the PI as ineligible for five years of research grant funding and will require the institution to provide a corrective action plan for the grant vetting process. A fourth consecutive unfavorable project/grant rating may identify the PI as ineligible for research grant funds and may require the institution to ensure the PI be removed as a participant on any currently funded research grant.



# Findings

## CURE Program Accomplishments

### Annual and Final Progress Reports

At the end of every state fiscal year (SFY), health research grant award recipients report progress on research projects. This information is used to compile the annual report to the legislature. This year's annual report as well as past reports, can be found on the [CURE](#) site.

### Formula Grant Performance Review Outcomes

The outcomes of the Formula grant performance reviews completed during SFY 2023-2024 are found in Table 1.

| Table 1. Formula Performance Review Outcomes<br>Cycle A 23-24 |                  |   |                    |   |
|---|------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Formula Grant   | Number of Grants | Grant Outcomes                                      | Number of Projects | Project Outcomes                                      |
| 2017-2018<br>Formula final                                    | 3                | 0 – Outstanding<br>3 – Favorable<br>0 – Unfavorable | 24                 | 9 – Outstanding<br>14 – Favorable<br>1 – Unfavorable  |
| 2018-2019<br>Formula final                                    | 11               | 2 – Outstanding<br>9 – Favorable<br>0 – Unfavorable | 35                 | 8 – Outstanding<br>23 – Favorable<br>4 – Unfavorable  |
| 2019-2020<br>Formula Final                                    | 2                | 0 – Outstanding<br>2 – Favorable<br>1 – Unfavorable | 3                  | 13 – Outstanding<br>32 – Favorable<br>0 – Unfavorable |
| 2020-2021<br>Formula Final                                    | 2                | 1 – Outstanding<br>1 – Favorable<br>0 – Unfavorable | 2                  | 1 – Outstanding<br>1 – Favorable<br>0 – Unfavorable   |

Information based on outcome reports from ORAU for SFY 2023.

### Additional Formula Grant Performance Measures:

Articles submitted to Peer-Reviewed Publications reported by grantees in the final progress reports for Formula grants are found in Table 2.

| Table 2. Articles Submitted to Peer-Reviewed Publications |                  |   |                    |                                      |
|---|------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Formula Grant   | Number of Grants | Publications                                    | Number of Projects | Intend to Submit Future Publications |
| 2017-2018<br>Formula final                                | 3                | 3 – Submitted<br>4 – Accepted<br>21 – Published | 24                 | 15                                   |
| 2018-2019<br>Formula final                                | 11               | 9 – Submitted<br>1 – Accepted<br>53 – Published | 35                 | 26                                   |
| 2019-2020<br>Formula Final                                | 2                | 0 – Submitted<br>3 – Accepted<br>7 – Published  | 3                  | 2                                    |

|                            |   |  |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 2020-2021<br>Formula Final | 2 | 0 – Submitted<br>3 – Accepted<br>0 – Published | 2 | 2 |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|

Information based final progress reports submitted by grantees who have had performance reviews conducted in SFY 2023.

Table 3 shows the following for Formula grants:

- Major Discoveries, New Drugs, and New Approaches for Prevention Diagnosis and Treatment
- Inventions, Patents and Commercial Development Opportunities

| Table 3. Formula Grant Discoveries |                  |                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Formula Grant                      | Number of Grants | Number of Projects | Major Discoveries, New Drugs, and New Approaches for Prevention Diagnosis and Treatment | Inventions, Patents and Commercial Development Opportunities |
| 2017-2018<br>Formula final         | 3                | 24                 | 8   | 1  |
| 2018-2019<br>Formula final         | 11               | 35                 | 11  | 3  |
| 2019-2020<br>Formula Final         | 2                | 3                  | 1   | 2  |
| 2020-2021<br>Formula Final         | 2                | 2                  | 1   | 0  |

Information based final progress reports submitted by grantees who have had performance reviews conducted in SFY 2023.

## Appendix 1: Financial Report

The \$47,876,000 authorized for health research grants for SFY 2023-2024 will be committed to health research grants and a contract for peer and performance review. Below is the authorized funding amounts and award amounts during SFY 2023.

### **2021-2022 Grant Awards and Authorized Funding**

The Department awarded \$36,536,300 in Formula grants; \$997,460 in Non-formula spinal cord injury research grants; and \$8,885,900 in Non-formula pediatric cancer grants. The Department awarded \$2,962,000 in Non-formula biotechnology research capital and equipment grants.

### **2022-2023 Grant Awards and Authorized Funding**

The Formula RFA 67-164 is currently under review by the Department. The Department has authorized \$34,872,500 in Formula grants; \$8,435,173 in Non-formula pediatric cancer grants; and \$2,801,900 in Non-formula biotechnology research capital and equipment grants. The Department awarded \$549,969 in Non-formula spinal cord injury research grants.

### **2023-2024 Authorized Funding for Grants**

The Formula RFA is currently under development by the Department. The Department has authorized approximately \$34,569,200 in Formula grants; \$1,000,000 in Non-formula spinal cord injury research grants; \$8,321,567 in Non-formula pediatric cancer grants; and \$2,773,855 in Non-formula biotechnology research capital and equipment.

Health research grant recipients receive the full amount of the grant award upon the commencement of the grant term. When grant funds are awarded in a SFY, recipients are required to invest the funds in an insured, interest-bearing account or in accordance with other investment guidelines contained in the grant agreement. Investment earnings must be applied toward health research projects approved by the Department.

This section of the report summarizes the commitments and expenditures for the grants that were active during the 2023-2024 SFY. The financial reports for grants awarded during prior state fiscal years may be viewed in prior annual CURE reports at [CURE webpage](#).

Amounts consist of the award amount and expenditures that include interest earned. Any unspent funds at the completion of the grant award period are returned to the Department.

## Table 1. 2018-2019 Formula Grants

Funds Awarded and Summary of Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024

| Formula Grant Institutions 2018-2019            | Funds Awarded | Expenditures SFY 18-19 | Expenditures SFY 19-20 | Expenditures SFY 20-21 | Expenditures SFY 21-22 | Expenditures SFY 22-23 | Expenditures SFY 23-24 |
|---|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Albert Einstein Healthcare Network              | \$48,955      | -                      | \$6,602                | \$25,121               | \$13,992*              | \$3,545*               | N/A                    |
| Allegheny-Singer Research Institute             | \$55,390      | -                      | \$24,705               | \$7,457                | \$10,810               | \$5,301*               | N/A                    |
| American College of Radiology                   | \$477,587     | -                      | -                      | \$44,558               | \$35,798*              | \$90,232*              | \$262,402              |
| Baruch S. Blumberg                              | \$60,279      | -                      | \$15,211               | \$45,092               | -                      | N/A                    | N/A                    |
| Carnegie Mellon University                      | \$516,169     | -                      | -                      | \$142,920              | \$144,134*             | \$231,619*             | N/A                    |
| Children's Hospital of Philadelphia             | \$4,824,238   | -                      | \$21,656               | \$831,130              | \$1,546,568*           | \$1,782,871*           | N/A                    |
| Drexel University                               | \$1,012,965   | -                      | \$35,758               | \$551,180              | \$313,621*             | \$116,694*             | N/A                    |
| Duquesne University                             | \$85,398      | -                      | \$14,122               | \$70,146               | -                      | -                      | N/A                    |
| Franklin and Marshall College                   | \$12,306      | -                      | \$717                  | -                      | -                      | -                      | N/A                    |
| Geisinger Clinic                                | \$225,671     | -                      | \$53,409               | \$44,729               | \$55,914*              | \$45,279*              | N/A                    |
| Institute for Cancer Research                   | \$1,121,111   | \$50,008               | \$485,445              | \$495,729              | \$99,540*              | -                      | N/A                    |
| Lankenau Institute for Medical Research         | \$133,892     | -                      | \$77,887               | \$45,926               | -                      | -                      | N/A                    |
| Lehigh University                               | \$116,029     | -                      | -                      | \$45,015               | \$19,371*              | \$51,056*              | N/A                    |
| Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation | \$1,306,087   | -                      | \$456,513              | \$849,573*             | -                      | -                      | N/A                    |
| Monell Chemical Senses Center                   | \$103,668     | -                      | \$28,941               | \$43,233               | \$13,435*              | \$18,146*              | N/A                    |

|  |                     |                 |                    |                    |                     |                     |                    |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Pennsylvania State University              | \$5,103,791         | -               | \$1,851,125        | \$936,868          | \$604,757*          | \$442,836*          | \$653,056          |
| Salus University                           | \$37,725            | -               | \$1,962            | \$36,042           | -                   | -                   | N/A                |
| Temple University                          | \$2,366,163         | -               | \$479,159          | \$634,395          | \$131,159*          | \$1,152,463*        | N/A                |
| Thomas Jefferson University                | \$2,014,710         | -               | \$382,937          | \$471,793          | \$651,004*          | \$508,976*          | N/A                |
| University of Pennsylvania                 | \$6,004,460         | -               | \$18,210           | \$1,643,612        | \$1,962,106*        | \$1,479,585*        | N/A                |
| University of Pittsburgh                   | \$6,004,460         | -               | \$2,833,629        | \$1,055,691        | \$844,447*          | \$1,304,725*        | N/A                |
| University of the Sciences in Philadelphia | \$43,799            | -               | -                  | \$5,227*           | -                   | -                   | N/A                |
| Wistar Institute                           | \$1,751,447         | -               | \$771,122          | \$500,729          | \$405,247*          | -                   | N/A                |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$33,426,300</b> | <b>\$50,008</b> | <b>\$7,958,074</b> | <b>\$8,546,992</b> | <b>\$6,864,460*</b> | <b>\$7,110,338*</b> | <b>\$2,065,551</b> |

Amounts consist of the award amount and expenditures that include interest earned.

\*Pending HRO Final Review

**Table 2. 2019-2020 Formula Grants**

Funds Awarded and Summary of Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024

| Formula Grant<br>Institutions 2019-<br>2020           | Funds<br>Awarded | Expenditures<br>SFY 19-20 | Expenditures<br>SFY 20-21 | Expenditures<br>SFY 21-22 | Expenditures<br>SFY 22-23 | Expenditures<br>SFY 23-24 |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Albert Einstein<br>Healthcare Network                 | \$46,293         | -                         | -                         | \$15,640*                 | -                         | \$15,640                  |
| Allegheny-Singer<br>Research Institute                | \$43,359         | -                         | \$43,359*                 | NA                        | NA                        | NA                        |
| American College of<br>Radiology                      | \$429,444        | -                         | \$11,258                  | \$38,379*                 | \$1,983*                  | -                         |
| Baruch S. Blumberg                                    | \$76,234         | -                         | \$46,421*                 | \$29,824*                 | N/A                       | N/A                       |
| Bucknell University                                   | \$6,326          | -                         | -                         | \$1,283*                  | \$2,474*                  | \$429*                    |
| Carnegie Mellon<br>University                         | \$552,847        | -                         | \$160,770                 | \$259,867*                | \$132,986*                | N/A                       |
| Children's Hospital of<br>Philadelphia                | \$4,592,650      | -                         | \$557,041                 | \$822,852*                | \$1,239,594*              | \$1,293,888*              |
| Drexel University                                     | \$1,003,510      | -                         | \$37,276                  | \$608,583*                | \$162,002*                | \$238,881*                |
| Duquesne University                                   | \$56,913         | -                         | \$13,246*                 | \$24,827*                 | \$8,590*                  | \$8,505*                  |
| Franklin and Marshall<br>College                      | \$9,176          | -                         | -                         | -                         | \$459*                    | \$9,830*                  |
| Geisinger Clinic                                      | \$232,936        | -                         | \$23,222                  | \$88,986*                 | \$95,763*                 | \$20,829*                 |
| Institute for Cancer<br>Research                      | \$1,039,104      | -                         | \$349,432                 | \$559,321*                | \$60,269*                 | \$42,383*                 |
| Lankenau Institute for<br>Medical Research            | \$111,688        | -                         | \$45,926                  | \$51,685                  | \$14,097                  | N/A                       |
| Lehigh University                                     | \$110,976        | -                         | \$5,819                   | \$31,877*                 | \$35,136*                 | \$22,767*                 |
| Magee-Women's<br>Research Institute<br>and Foundation | \$1,132,807      | \$521,984                 | -                         | \$495,837*                | \$80,478*                 | \$38,768*                 |

|  |                     |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|--|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monell Chemical Senses Center              | \$87,104            | -                | \$5,957*           | \$40,254*          | \$19,041*          | \$21,906           |
| NRG Oncology Foundation                    | \$1,261,979         | -                | \$93,513*          | \$308,765*         | \$176,717*         | \$210,889*         |
| Pennsylvania State University              | \$5,182,331         | -                | \$445,138          | \$979,413*         | \$1,387,950*       | \$1,190,061*       |
| Salus University                           | \$25,827            | -                | \$7,962            | \$9,285*           | \$8,773*           | N/A                |
| Temple University                          | \$2,261,135         | -                | \$192,106*         | \$284,501*         | \$925,344*         | \$457,038*         |
| Thomas Jefferson University                | \$1,907,083         | -                | \$371,466*         | \$468,340*         | -                  | \$315,014          |
| University of Pennsylvania                 | \$6,096,860         | -                | \$224,354          | \$569,855*         | \$1,485,455*       | \$1,484,601*       |
| University of Pittsburgh                   | \$6,096,860         | -                | \$975,125*         | \$3,756,921*       | \$687,091*         | \$735,596*         |
| University of the Sciences in Philadelphia | \$40,410            | -                | \$5,278*           | \$11,094*          | \$1,484*           | N/A                |
| Wistar Institute                           | \$1,536,448         | -                | \$500,729          | \$394,044*         | \$255,357*         | \$386,318          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$33,940,300</b> | <b>\$521,984</b> | <b>\$4,115,398</b> | <b>\$9,851,433</b> | <b>\$6,781,043</b> | <b>\$6,278,343</b> |

Amounts consist of the award amount and expenditures that include interest earned.

\*Pending HRO Final Review



**Table 3. 2020-2021 Formula Grants**

Funds Awarded and Summary of Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024

| Formula Grant Institutions 2020-2021            | Funds Awarded | Expenditures SFY 20-21 | Expenditures SFY 21-22 | Expenditures SFY 22-23 | Expenditures SFY 23-24 |
|---|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Albert Einstein Healthcare Network              | \$48,175      | -                      | \$889*                 | \$48,371*              | -                      |
| Allegheny-Singer Research Institute             | \$32,691      | -                      | -                      | \$4,320*               | \$1,218*               |
| American College of Radiology                   | \$455,940     | -                      | -                      | \$77,567*              | \$92,004*              |
| Baruch S. Blumberg                              | \$66,940      | -                      | \$16,603*              | \$31,229*              | N/A                    |
| Carnegie Mellon University                      | \$705,659     | -                      | \$11,664*              | \$41,158*              | \$128,961*             |
| Children's Hospital of Philadelphia             | \$5,037,731   | -                      | \$1,235,940*           | \$980,027*             | \$1,166,483*           |
| Drexel University                               | \$1,062,838   | -                      | \$68,639*              | \$116,694*             | \$323,032*             |
| Duquesne University                             | \$48,976      | -                      | \$831*                 | \$9,537*               | \$13,417*              |
| Franklin and Marshall College                   | \$12,969      | -                      | -                      | -                      | \$6,348*               |
| Geisinger Clinic                                | \$260,474     | -                      | \$28,473*              | \$61,413*              | \$26,330*              |
| Institute for Cancer Research                   | \$1,062,931   | -                      | \$483,243*             | \$257,606*             | \$122,511*             |
| Lankenau Institute for Medical Research         | \$97,042      | -                      | -                      | -                      | -                      |
| Lehigh University                               | \$125,738     | -                      | -                      | \$9,386*               | \$81,176*              |
| Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation | \$1,088,968   | -                      | \$429,366*             | -                      | \$81,175*              |
| Monell Chemical Senses Center                   | \$101,166     | -                      | \$80,528*              | \$10,140*              | \$3,600*               |
| Pennsylvania State University                   | \$5,434,016   | -                      | -                      | \$200,766*             | \$1,088,419            |

|  |                     |          |                     |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Salus University                           | \$16,048            | -        | -                   | \$6,422*            | \$9,385             |
| Swarthmore College                         | \$12,788            | -        | \$648*              | \$5,773*            | N/A                 |
| Temple University                          | \$2,229,527         | -        | \$40,697            | \$851,816*          | \$904,278           |
| Thomas Jefferson University                | \$2,005,191         | -        | \$344,552*          | -                   | \$731,955           |
| University of Pennsylvania                 | \$6,392,960         | -        | -                   | \$1,047,470*        | -                   |
| University of Pittsburgh                   | \$6,392,960         | -        | \$855,743*          | \$957,833*          | \$2,530,600         |
| University of the Sciences in Philadelphia | \$32,933            | -        | \$671               | \$11,087*           | \$8650              |
| Wistar Institute                           | \$1,515,622         | -        | \$254,372*          | \$242,260*          | \$300,295           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$34,240,283</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>\$3,852,859*</b> | <b>\$4,970,875*</b> | <b>\$7,619,837*</b> |

Amounts shown may not have been disbursed to applicants at the time this report was published.

\*Pending HRO Final Review

**Table 4. 2021-2022 Formula Grants**

Funds Awarded and Summary of Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2022-2023, 2023-2024

| Formula Grant Institutions<br>2021-2022         | Funds<br>Awarded | Expenditures<br>SFY 22-23 | Expenditures<br>SFY 23-24 |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Albert Einstein Healthcare Network              | \$41,709         | \$2,374*                  | \$2,374*                  |
| Allegheny-Singer Research Institute             | \$24,333         | \$4,320*                  | \$1,218*                  |
| American College of Radiology                   | \$536,167        | -                         | \$106,885*                |
| Baruch S. Blumberg                              | \$58,137         | -                         | \$30,830*                 |
| Carnegie Mellon University                      | \$686,373        | -                         | -                         |
| Children's Hospital of Philadelphia             | \$5,578,601      | -                         | -                         |
| Drexel University                               | \$1,021,686      | -                         | \$476,484*                |
| Duquesne University                             | \$43,474         | -                         | \$10,848*                 |
| Geisinger Clinic                                | \$271,558        | -                         | -                         |
| Institute for Cancer Research                   | \$1,181,462      | \$272,596*                | \$417,230*                |
| Lankenau Institute for Medical Research         | \$75,660         | -                         | \$36,171*                 |
| Lehigh University                               | \$125,088        | -                         | \$57,865*                 |
| Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation | \$814,236        | -                         | -                         |
| Monell Chemical Senses Center                   | \$110,887        | -                         | -                         |
| NRG Oncology Foundation, Inc.                   | \$1,644,644      | -                         | -                         |
| Pennsylvania State University                   | \$5,578,601      | -                         | \$990,640*                |

|                             |                     |                   |                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Salus University            | \$8,825             | -                 | \$1,789*           |
| Swarthmore College          | \$15,018            | -                 | \$2,037*           |
| Temple University           | \$1,975,178         | -                 | \$302,235*         |
| Thomas Jefferson University | \$2,134,477         | -                 | -                  |
| University of Pennsylvania  | \$6,563,060         | -                 | -                  |
| University of Pittsburgh    | \$6,563,060         | -                 | -                  |
| Wistar Institute            | \$1,484,066         | \$254,371*        | \$378,833*         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$36,536,300</b> | <b>\$533,661*</b> | <b>\$2,815,439</b> |

Amounts consist of the award amount and expenditures that include interest earned.

\*Pending HRO Final Review

## Appendix 2: Research Advisory Committees

### Health Research Advisory Committee (HRAC)

Chaired by the Secretary of Health, this nine-member advisory committee provides recommendations on priorities, grant accountability and evaluation procedures, as well as other related issues. HRAC meeting notices are advertised through the “PA Bulletin” and on the Department’s CURE website. Approved committee meeting minutes are posted on the [CURE webpage](#). HRAC had one meeting during SFY 2023-2024 but did not meet quorum.

Health research grants awarded must address the priorities, which are established by the Department in conjunction with the HRAC. The priorities are reviewed annually and revised as needed. Separate priorities are established for Formula and Non-formula funds. The Formula fund health research priorities have remained unchanged since the first year of the program and are broad-based, so institutions can concentrate on their areas of research strength.

The Non-formula fund priorities may change annually. The Non-formula priorities for SFY 2023 were identified in the SFY 2023 Pennsylvania Fiscal Code.

### Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC)

This advisory committee provides recommendations on spinal cord injury priorities, grant accountability and evaluation procedures, and other related issues. SCRAC meeting notices are advertised through the “PABulletin” and on the Department’s CURE website. Approved committee meeting minutes are posted on the [CURE webpage](#). SCRAC had two meetings during the SFY2023-2024.

Spinal cord injury research grants are awarded based on a tiered system. The Department in conjunction with the SCRAC reviews the spinal cord injury research priorities and the tiered process annually.

The current spinal cord injury priorities include the following.

- a) Pharmacologic, biologic, medical device, brain stimulus, and rehabilitative approaches and techniques.
- b) Preference will be given to those projects and techniques that seek to change the nature and course of the injury.
- c) To ensure funded research addresses the gap in translation of discovery to human study and application, further preference will be given to research that is strategically translational or translatable relative to aims and outcomes.
- d) Finally, further preference will be given to research strategies that represent either potential or existing collaboration with industry, whether in the development and trial of biologics, pharmacologics, device, or novel therapeutic rehabilitative treatments, in combination with these developments.

## Appendix 3: Research Grants Active during SFYs

This report contains a summary of the research progress made by the grantees during the 2023 State Fiscal Year. The progress reports identified below and information on grants that ended prior to July 1, 2024, are found at [CURE E-library](#). 2022 Formula grants have not been executed by the publish date of this report. Final Performance Review Report, Grantee's Response to the Performance Review Report and the Final Progress Report will be posted on the CURE website approximately 12-16 months after the end of the Grant Agreement. During SFY 2023-2024 there were 93 active CURE grants.

### Albert Einstein Healthcare Network

- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Edwards

### Allegheny Singer Research Institute

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

### American College of Radiology

- 2018 Formula Grant
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

### Baruch S. Blumberg Institute

- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

### Bucknell University

- 2019 Formula

### Carnegie Mellon University

- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

### Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Non-formula Grant - COVID
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-Formula Grant – Pediatric Cancer

### Drexel University

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – SC Jin
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – SC Dougherty, formerly Lane
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – SC Bedzdudnaya
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – SC Giszter
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Finley
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Cote
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Dougherty

#### Duquesne University

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### Franklin and Marshall College

- 2018 Formula Grant
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant

#### Geisinger Clinic

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### Institute for Cancer Research

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### Lankenau Institute for Medical Research

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### Lehigh University

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant



Monell Chemical Senses Center

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

NRG Oncology Foundation, Inc.

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

Pennsylvania State University

- 2018 Formula Grant
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Non-formula Grant - COVID
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – Pediatric Cancer
- 2021 Formula Grant

Public Health Management Corporation

- 2018 Non-formula Grant – Opioid

Salus University

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

Swarthmore College

- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

Temple University

- 2018 Non-formula Grant – Opioid
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – Alzheimer
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Smith

Thomas Jefferson University

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Lepore

University of Pennsylvania

- 2018 Formula Grant
- 2018 Non-formula Grant – Opioid
- 2019 Non-formula Grant – Alzheimer
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Non-formula Grant - COVID
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant

#### University of Pittsburgh

- 2019 Non-formula Grant - Alzheimer
- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant
- 2021 Formula Grant
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Cooper
- 2021 Non-formula Grant – SC Schwartz

#### University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

- 2019 Formula Grant
- 2020 Formula Grant

#### Wistar Institute

- 2021 Formula Grant