

"CAC2 Foundation Match for Joint Research Funding: A Searchable Web Platform to Connect Like-Minded Research Foundations"

This project came out of work done by the Joint Funding Working Group and refined by the Research Interest Group at the 2019 Annual Summit. The working team proposes that we create a searchable web platform for CAC2 member organizations with like-minded missions to connect, collaborate, fund research and other projects with a goal of preventing duplication of effort and creating a more coordinated funding effort to support research.

This database will be used to match CAC2 member organizations that fund research and facilitate collaboration as well as to create a more efficient process to enable the limited (and sometimes fragmented) resources in the childhood cancer world to be best leveraged. Organizations will enter in information about their organization into data fields based on pre-selected requirements and areas of focus (disease type, type of research or support they prefer to fund, award amount, geographic preferences, etc.), Participants will then be able to search based on these requirements. Once they find organizations that align with what they are searching for, the website will allow further one-on-one conversations between organizations.

1. What Is the Value of Completing this Project?

- To provide a portal where funding collaborations can be easily found and fostered.
- To create streamlined and standardized information so that organizations can find like-minded foundations

2. What are the Steps to Complete the Project?

Work Package 1: Technology architecture

- Establish a subteam to explore the best technology solution and the costs associated with building the platform
 - Identify technology partners and any funding liabilities

Work Package 2: Data Design

- Establish a data design subteam to explore what information is required to build out member profiles and funding interests

- Build members profile database to allow member-to-member searches
- Potential Fields to Include:
 - Disease Type
 - Research Type
 - Relevant Geographic Area
 - Award Amount
 - Duration of Award
 - Areas of Interest (examples: pediatric, AYA, drug development, early stage investigators, established award and/or naming opportunities)
- Nature of Collected Data:
 - Detailed information regarding funding mechanisms and review processes, including specific and standardized information about Scientific Advisory Council & Scientific Review Process to allow accurate comparisons
- Create a self-serve mechanism for organizations to submit and update their information

Work Pack 3: Promotion of Participation

- Establish a promotion subteam design, create, and oversee delivery of materials to members to participate
 - Develop promotional materials
 - Oversee distribution to organizations to join and use the data platform
 - Work with CAC2 leadership and communication team to develop a mechanism to share successes which will help promote further adoption.

Work Package 4: Moderation of Data Collection and Site Administration

- Establish a subteam to moderate the data collection process and to oversee site administration
 - A data moderator would oversee that information provided was complete and within standards
 - As a self-service model site administration would be primarily technical and maintenance-oriented, rather than process oriented
 - Following a self-service model, once organizations have found potential funding partners, they would gain access to matched

organizations to find detailed information more detailed information and access to contact information to learn more about specific projects and opportunities

3. What Are Members' Roles or Opportunities?

- Members are invited to serve on a project subteam
- Members are invited to attend a presentation/webinar launching the project
- Members are invited to participate in the data platform by providing information about their organization and projects they would like to cooperate on
- Members are invited to use the data platform to identify funding opportunities for themselves
- Members are invited to find the best ways for their own mission-drive organization to amplify their impact by working with others

4. What Will this Project Cost?

The project steering team working with the data architecture team will work to identifying an in-kind partner. If a technology partner is identified and engaged, the monetary cost of the site stand up and maintenance will be minimal.

In the event that NO partnership is identified, the team will approach to CAC2 Board to design process to raise required funds.

The estimated costs associated with starting the site are:

- Domain purchase: \$20
- Site Build: \$5,000-\$10,000
- Search Mechanism: \$10,000 - \$25,000 depending on the complexity

The estimated costs associated with maintaining the site are:

- Domain name renewal: approximately \$20/year
- Hosting: approximately \$500/year

5. What is the Benefit to CAC2 Members?

CAC2 member organizations will benefit with an online searchable database to find like-minded member organizations and funding opportunities in a collaborative space.

6. What is the Benefit to the CAC2 Organization?

Building this funding match platform will demonstrate continued leadership and enhance the credibility of CAC2 in the field. It will also serve as a membership enticement for non-member organizations who might join CAC2 to participate in the matching process.

The project would be in alignment with CAC2's aspirations to create a legacy of cooperation on a wide array of issues that are childhood-cancer centric.

7. What are the Benefits to the Larger Childhood Cancer Community?

The greater research community will benefit, both in the near-immediate future and the long term, from a streamlined funding process wherein projects have an increased likelihood of being fully funded via CAC2 collaboration without the additional time burden of the PI seeking secondary and possibly tertiary funding sources.

8. Does this Project Duplicate Other Efforts Within the Community?

No. Some organizations co-fund based on relationships that develop organically and some organizations use sites like Proposal Central as their grant management system. In addition, there are collaboration hubs in the non-profit space to purchase goods and services together, to share space, to co-develop fundraising opportunities, and so on. This system will be a unique peer-to-peer matching system for CAC2 members, who have already signaled their interest in working collaboratively by joining and paying membership dues to CAC2 so that it is more likely to turn up like-minded matches.

9. What Will the Final Project Look Like When it's Done?

The finished product will allow for "matching up" of foundations with similar interests/goals via a database search. And will be successful when partnerships are developed through this process, and we are able to share those successes through the CAC2 leadership to the membership.

Once again, later this week you will receive a link to a survey through SurveyMonkey and you will be asked to evaluate this project idea by voting for or against the project. **The survey will take NO MORE than 5 minutes** to complete and you will be asked:

1. Are you in favor of CAC2 creating a searchable web platform for CAC2 member organizations with like-minded missions to connect, collaborate, fund research and other projects with a goal of preventing duplication of effort and creating a more coordinated funding effort to support research?
 - o If yes, do you have further comments or suggestions to make this project a greater success?

- If no, do you have further comments about your reservations?
- 2. Would you or your organization support the project by (check all that apply):
 - Serving on a project subteam
 - Attending a presentation/webinar launching the project
 - Participating in the data platform by providing information about their organization and projects they would like to cooperate on
 - Using the data platform to identify funding opportunities for themselves
 - Finding the best ways for their own mission-drive organization to amplify their impact by working with others

Your input is of great importance to us and we thank you, in advance for reading this document until the end. **If you have questions or need more information, you may email (or call me):**

Vickie Buenger (president@cac2.org and [979.820.1755](tel:979.820.1755))

Phil Renna, Project Shepherd (crf4acure@verizon.net)

Melisse Skelton, Project co-Lead (melisse.skelton@curesearch.org)

Oscar Ortiz, Project co-Lead (oscar@sebastianstrong.org)