Synopsis
Investigators may submit one internal concept paper under either the Science and Engineering or Medical Research program area. Each college may submit up to three concept papers in any combination between the two program areas. CSU will select up to three promising concepts in each of the two program areas and review them with Keck Foundation staff in July 2016. One project will then be selected in each of the two program areas to be developed into Phase I proposals for the November 1, 2016 deadline. Phase I applicants may then be invited to submit a Phase II application for the Keck Foundation’s final selection round. These will be due in February 2017.

Eligibility
Any investigator or team whose research meets the Science and Engineering or Medical Research program goals described below.

Funding Guidelines

Science and Engineering:
The W.M. Keck Foundation's Science and Engineering program area seeks to benefit humanity by supporting high-risk/high-impact projects in physical science and engineering that are distinctive and novel in their approach to intractable problems, push the edge of their field, or question the prevailing paradigm. It encourages projects that are high-risk with the potential for transformative impact. "High-risk" comprises a number of factors, including unconventional approaches and emerging areas of research. "Transformative" may mean creation of a new field of research, development of new instrumentation enabling observations not previously possible, or discovery of knowledge that challenges prevailing perspectives.

Medical Research Program:
The W.M. Keck Foundation's Medical Research program area seeks to advance the frontiers of the life sciences by supporting basic research that is high-risk and has the potential to transform its field or question the prevailing paradigm. Past grants have been awarded to support pioneering biological research, including the development of promising new technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies. Research projects should focus on basic research and questions and not be clinical in nature. Projects should also focus on basic mechanisms with broad applications and not specific diseases.

Very important: Projects must fall outside the mission of public funding agencies and demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success.

Projects that include the following may be viewed more favorably:
- Breakthroughs that develop a finding, method, or technology that can then be utilized in a wider range of research interests;
- Interdisciplinary teams;
- Extensive involvement from students, both graduate and undergraduate;
- Lasting impact on their departments, colleges, or CSU as a whole;
- Proposals with budgets closer to $1 million.

Keck Foundation does not support:
- Clinical research or treatment trials;
- Translational research;
- Energy, climate change, and projects whose benefits accrue largely to the pharmaceutical industry.
- Projects where the budget primarily supports core facilities;

NOTE: It is highly recommended that applicants attend an informal discussion at 4:30 pm on April 11, 2016 at the Ramskeller in Lory Student Center. Research and Advancement staff will be available discuss the application process, Keck priorities, and strategies for aligning your project concept with Keck selection criteria.
• Routine institutional or general operating expenses, general endowments, deficit reduction, or general and/or administrative overhead expenses;
• Acquisition, construction or major renovation of facilities;
• Projects to be undertaken outside the United States.

The on-campus nomination process and timeline

• Research Associate Deans advise faculty of restricted funding opportunity.
• Applicants submit a one-page preproposal to their Research Associate Dean.
• Colleges select up to three preproposals in each program, complete the Limited Submission RFP Nomination Form cover page, and submit via email to Sponsored Programs by 5 pm, May 18, 2016 (restricted@research.colostate.edu).
• In consultation with Keck Foundation, the Vice President for Research will select proposals to advance to the November 1, 2016 Phase I deadline.

Before embarking on the pre-proposal process, interested faculty are encouraged to attend the meeting to discuss project ideas with VPR and Foundation Relations staff.

Proposal Timeline:
April 11, 2016  Meeting for applicants to discuss project ideas and proposal strategies.
May 18, 2016  Internal pre-proposals due.
May 18 – July 1, 2016  Internal review, follow up with applicants, and potential revisions.
July 2016  Preproposals are shared with the foundation and CSU conference call with Keck Foundation to discuss proposal concepts.
August 2016  Internal announcement of one Science and Engineering Research and one Medical Research pre-proposal selected to proceed to Phase I proposal round.
November 1, 2016  Phase I proposals due to Keck Foundation.

Internal Preproposal Guidelines:
• One page with 12 point Times New Roman font and one inch margins.
• Please do not use figures or graphics.

Format:
1. Header listing the project title and Keck program area (Science and Engineering or Medical Research) and names and titles of principal investigators.
2. Overview: Provide an overview of the need for this project and how it advances the foundation’s goal to support high-risk projects with a transformative impact. Describe the value of the outcomes to science and humanity.
3. Relevant Efforts: Describe past and current efforts at CSU that are relevant to this project, including institutional resources that will support the work, as well as comparable or related work by others. Contrast the project with similar efforts elsewhere and describe its unique attributes.
4. Goals and Methodology: State the major goals of the project and summarize the methodologies and time frame to be used in their achievement. Highlight the unique or distinctive aspects of this project.
5. Impact: Describe the potential impacts both at CSU and more broadly. How would achievement of the project’s goals serve other researchers and in what fields?
6. Budget and justification for Keck support: List the amount requested and total project budget with approximate allocation for personnel, equipment, operations, and facilities. Explain why the project is ineligible for federal support and why support from the Keck Foundation is essential.

The Office of the Vice President for Research will review the concept papers, speak with the Keck Foundation regarding the strongest candidates, and select one from each program area to be developed into Phase I proposals for the November 1, 2016 deadline.