



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Virginia Catalyst Announces Round 11 of Grant Funding**

*Emphasis will be placed on Innovative Projects*

*Focused on Solutions for COVID-19 and other Infectious Diseases*

**RICHMOND, VA** – April 1, 2020 – The Virginia Catalyst, formerly known as the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), today announced that it is accepting letters of intent (LOI) for Grant Round 11 to fund the development and commercialization of life science projects that address major unmet needs for improving human health and advancing Virginia's economy.

While all life science projects will be accepted for Grant Round 11, given the impact of COVID-19, emphasis will be placed on projects within the areas of infectious disease, immunology, vaccine and drug discovery, and innovative service delivery models including telehealth and telemedicine.

Virginia Catalyst awards, which range from \$200,000 to \$800,000, help fund collaborative efforts between industry and Virginia research universities with goals of:

- Funding innovative, collaborative, translational research projects that elevate the level of sponsored research at Virginia's universities and have the potential to create high value jobs in the Commonwealth
- Accelerating commercialization of Virginia research university inventions and discoveries and to achieve competitive critical mass through robust collaborations across Virginia

LOIs must be received by June 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM EDT. Projects that meet criteria will be invited to submit a full application by August 18, 2020. Applications will be reviewed and scored by an independent review team of scientists, venture capitalists and CEOs of Virginia-based life science companies. The top eight applicant teams will be invited to present their proposal in person on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Awards will be announced in October 2020. The LOI submission form, along with funding criteria and frequently asked questions, are available on the Virginia Catalyst website ([www.virginiacatalyst.org/apply.html](http://www.virginiacatalyst.org/apply.html)).

### **Special Announcement for Webinar: Funding for Virginia Public-Private Biotech Partnerships**

In conjunction with the opening of Grant Round 11, there will be a free webinar co-hosted by Virginia Catalyst and Virginia Bio. This event will feature an expert panel, facilitated by Mike Grisham, CEO of Virginia Catalyst, to share what it takes to score highly, get funding and position your company and research university for significant follow-on funding from large corporations, venture capitalists, DARPA, NIH and philanthropic foundations.

Details: Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon – 1:00 pm

Join us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/644376195>

“We are proud of being a stimulus for industry to work more closely with our research universities to drive economic growth,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, Virginia Catalyst. “Virginia Catalyst continues to support teams of investigators from research institutions and industry to move their discoveries in the life sciences from laboratories to commercialization. The creation of sustainable companies and high-paying jobs help boost Virginia’s overall economy, support the life sciences sector, and tangibly improve citizens’ lives. Cumulatively through the first ten funding rounds, Virginia Catalyst has dedicated a total of \$19.1 million for 43 collaborative projects. Together, these projects have created over 170 new jobs and have attracted an additional \$228 million of investment capital from venture capital, private equity, corporations and government agencies including DARPA, NIH and NSF. We are proud to continue supporting research investigators and entrepreneurs in achieving milestones that will result in follow-on funding and building sustainable businesses.”

### **About Virginia Catalyst**

Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), known as Virginia Catalyst, has a vision of advancing life sciences throughout Virginia as a means of addressing large unmet medical needs to improve human health and to create high-paying jobs throughout the Commonwealth. Funded by the Virginia General Assembly’s General fund, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Eastern Virginia Medical School, George Mason University, Old Dominion University, and William and Mary, the Virginia Catalyst has funding opportunities to support collaborative life science projects in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [www.virginiacatalyst.org](http://www.virginiacatalyst.org).

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