

Economic Development



TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TGEN) EQUIPMENT AND LABORATORY

Subcommittee: Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education

Request: Appropriate \$3 million for the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) research facility, a city of Phoenix-owned facility, to fund equipment procurement, alterations and renovations, and other health-related activities. Funding is targeted from the Health Resources and Services account (HRSA) in the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Community Value:

The city of Phoenix financed construction of a \$46 million, 170,000-square-foot biomedical research facility in downtown Phoenix to locate TGen as the anchor tenant for the Phoenix Bioscience Center. TGen has proven to be a catalyst to the Arizona economy by generating significant growth and benefits in jobs, revenue and research commercialization

From Fiscal Year 2003 to Fiscal Year 2005, TGen received \$4.1 million in grant funds from HRSA, per a coordinated effort with the city of Phoenix to request funding over a multi-year period to help complete facility build-out. Funds were requested in Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007 but HRSA projects were not funded in the final budgets. Funding was granted in Fiscal Year 2008 in the amount of \$880,000 to help further needed build-out. Approximately \$285,000 is included in the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2009.

All of TGen's scientific programs have expanded, particularly TGen's cancer research programs including breast, pancreatic, melanoma and prostate as well as significant activity in the neuroscience area. TGen investigators have made important scientific discoveries including finding genetic clues to autism spectrum disorder, Alzheimer's disease, presbycusis (age-related hearing loss), honing in on the genetic basis of childhood-onset epilepsy disorder, memory function, among others. TGen intends to increase its efforts in prostate cancer and developing a state-of-the-art proteomics production facility that will focus on identifying new proteins for the development of diagnostic tests for patients with cancer or other illnesses.

TGen currently occupies most of its assigned space with the exception of several thousand square feet that remains undeveloped. In addition to funding anticipated in Fiscal Year

2009, renovation and equipment needs still are estimated at \$3 million for build-out of laboratory areas. HRSA funding has provided critical support to TGen, enabling the organization to set up a world-class laboratory facility, procure state-of-the-art equipment necessary for genomics-based disease research, and helping to recruit top scientists to Arizona – all of which are advancing biomedical science for improved health care.



Translational Genomics Research Institute

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