Proposal Submission — **Award and Account Establishment** — **After Research Commences** — **Closeout**

Who can be a Principal Investigator?

All tenured, tenure track, and Research, Teaching, Practice, and Clinical (RTPC) faculty (with the exception of lecturers, adjunct, and part-time faculty) may serve as Principal Investigators on Sponsored Research Projects at USC. Retired faculty may be called back and asked to serve as Principal Investigators as described in Chapter 10 of the Faculty Handbook.
https://policy.usc.edu/faculty-handbook/

Voluntary faculty may not serve as Principal Investigators.

Are there instances where employees who are not full-time faculty are able to serve as Principal Investigators?

If a specific waiver is granted upon recommendation by the appropriate department chair(s), appropriate dean(s), and the SVP of Research and Innovation or designee, the following types of employees may be able to serve as Principal Investigators:

- Part-time faculty
- Certain staff positions, if eligible, including Research Scientists, Senior Research Associates, and Research Associates

To streamline the waiver request, please complete the applicable PI Exception Request and Approval Form and, once signed by your school, provide to DCG to secure VP approval. To access the form and for additional guidance, please see the PI Eligibility section of the DCG Website.

Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Associates, as defined by USC's Postdoctoral Scholars Policy, can also serve as co-principal investigators on sponsored projects. To review the Postdoctoral Scholars Policy, please visit https://policy.usc.edu/postdoctoral-scholars/.

What are the training and other requirements a Principal Investigator is required to complete?

All researchers must meet current training requirements in order to be eligible to act as a Principal Investigator. These include:

- Grants Management
- Conflict of Interest
- Intellectual Property
- Lab Safety, Animal Care and Use, Human Subjects, as applicable.

For more information, please consult the USC Research Training Finder at https://researchtrainingfinder.usc.edu/.