About the RDO

The Research Development Office (RDO) serves at the nexus of research and research administration to promote, support, strengthen, and grow the research enterprise at UCSF. Working with faculty, administration staff, and leadership partners, the RDO seeks to attract extramural research funding, increase institutional competitiveness, create research relationships, and foster innovation.

The RDO is home to the Resource Allocation Program (RAP) [1], which manages the dissemination, submission, review and award of various intramural funding opportunities, and the Limited Submission Program (LSP) [2], which manages the dissemination, solicitation and selection of proposals for limited submission funding opportunities. Additionally, the RDO fosters and facilitates scientific collaborations between internal and external research teams through its Team Science Program (TSP) [3] and supports proposal development for large, multi-investigator project grants in its Large Grant Development Program (LGDP) [4]. As a service- and solutions-oriented team, the RDO operates with integrity, professionalism, and respect for those with whom we work within and outside of UCSF.

What is "Research Development"?

Universities, colleges, research centers, and institutes are central players in the networks of coordinated activity that result in the creation and mobilization of knowledge. As these activities have reached ever higher levels of complexity, research development has taken on an increasingly important role in the strategic deployment and coordination of university and other networked resources in the service of knowledge creation and mobilization. The Research Development (RD) professional works to ensure that when institutional resources are deployed to seek external funding or partnerships for knowledge creation or mobilization, that these activities are as strategic and efficient as possible so as to maximize the likelihood that the best ideas with the best chances for ultimate success are recognized and supported with the finite support available.

(Adapted from content on the website for the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP [5]))
[1] https://rap.ucsf.edu/