Request for Applications
2022 Transformative Research Seed Grant Initiative

The University of South Carolina is pleased to announce a call for research seed grant applications. This funding aims to advance the collaborative research relationship between UofSC and Prisma Health to pursue new and innovative research that improves health.

Overview: The purpose of the Transformative Research Seed Grant Initiative is to facilitate collaborative research activities between the University of South Carolina and Prisma Health. Funding for the seed grants is supported by our partners at Prisma Health and by UofSC Partners including the Office of Vice President for Research, School of Medicine-Columbia, Arnold School of Public Health, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and the College of Engineering and Computing. These projects should focus on health care innovations, care delivery models, community-based care serving rural or underserved populations, or biomedical science that translates to clinical practice. Applicants must propose a research project that will serve as support for an extramural research grant application, and recipients are expected to disseminate their work locally, regionally, and/or nationally.

Funding: Projects may be funded up to $20,000.

Funding Period: Applicants can request a project period of up to 15 months beginning April 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Eligibility: The project must include an investigative partnership between a University of South Carolina-Columbia faculty member and a clinical collaborator from Prisma Health-Midlands. Please contact the rcth@uscmed.sc.edu for questions regarding eligibility.

Applicant Requirements: Principal Investigators accepting a Transformative Research Seed Grant agree to the following:

- Secure Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or exemption) prior to receipt of any award dollars, or the initiation of project-related work.
- Spend award dollars only on the proposed research-related activities specified in the budget.
- Complete a status report form at 6 months and then submit final report within 30 days of award end date.
- Disseminate/present pilot project findings locally, regionally, and/or nationally.
- Consult with the staff at the Research Center for Transforming Health to develop a long-term plan for utilizing seed grant project findings for future grant proposals.

Submission Requirements: The selection process will be a two-tiered evaluation process. Applicants **must** submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Applicant LOIs will be reviewed and selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Letters of Intent requirements: Due- November 8, 2021 5:00 pm (EST)
- Applicant and investigative partner(s) contact information
- Descriptive title of the project
- Brief overview of proposed project (max 2 pages) addressing the following:
  - Objective/Purpose
  - Specific Aims
  - Methods
  - Overview of roles of investigative partners

Submit Letter of Intent online @ https://redcap.link/2022UofSCSeedGrant
Applicants will be notified by November 30, 2021 if invited to submit a full application.

Full Application Submission Information: The submission deadline for invited full applications is **January 10, 2022.** The following information will be required to complete the application:

- Descriptive title of the project
- Overview of proposed project (max 250 words)
  - 4-Page Project Proposal
    - 1-Page specific aims
    - 3-Page research strategy
      - Significance/Problem, Innovation, Approach, Hypothesis, Planned Analysis, Project Timeline
- Bibliography/References Cited (not included in page limits)
- Detailed Project Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH Style Biosketch for all investigators and any key personnel
- Current & Pending Support Document for PI & investigative partner(s)
- For projects utilizing secondary data, a current Data Use Agreement from the data provider must be submitted; or for existing datasets, documentation for permission to use data for secondary analysis from the data provider must be provided. Note: some data providers, including Prisma Health may have costs associated with secondary data request.

Budget and Allowable Costs: All applications must include a budget and budget justification. Budgets are presented in general categories and require detailed explanation on the budget justification. Budget items should align with the information below and NIH standard guidelines. The proposed budget should not include items typically covered by departmental support for active researchers, or used to bridge a funding gap between grants. Cost share is not allowed.

Allowable Costs:
- Up to 5% effort (subject to NIH salary cap) each for salary and fringe benefit support for the PI and/or investigative partner
- Salary and fringe benefits of research project personnel (e.g. research coordinator)
- Project supplies
- Participant incentives
- Data acquisition & data collection costs
- Animal acquisition & maintenance
- Graduate student tuition

Unallowable Costs:
- Salary support for administrative personnel
- Facilities and Administration costs/indirect costs
- Memberships and subscriptions
- General office supplies, equipment, computers, laptops (unless specifically justified and approved)
- Food
- Travel (unless essential to project with justification provided and approved-)
- Undergraduate student tuition

Document Formatting:
- Documents must be created in MS word and converted to PDF format for upload. Do not attach fillable forms. If combining PDFs, do not use bundling or portfolio features.
- Font Type and Size- 11 pts or larger; Arial or Calibri
- Page Margins- No less than 0.5" (one-half inch) on all sides

Selection Process: An interdisciplinary selection committee that includes researchers from UofSC and Prisma Health will evaluate completed applications that are responsive to this announcement. Criteria that will be used to score projects will include:

Significance/Problem- Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier in the areas of health care innovations, care delivery models, community-based care serving rural or underserved populations, or biomedical science that translates to clinical practice?

Innovation- Does the application seek to shift or challenge current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

Approach & Feasibility- Does the proposal provide a clear statement of overall project objectives? Are the proposed methodologies appropriate and accurate? Is the project timeline reasonable in relation to the proposed research and award timeframe?

Investigators- Does the investigative team have the requisite background, training, and relationship and access to carry out the goals of the project? Does the team have depth of collaborative experience or potential to carry out the project?

Budget- Does the proposal provide a sound justification with clear and specific budget information?

Leverage- Is the project responsive to this RFA? Will the project lead to further scholarly activity? Does it significantly improve chances for funding from existing sources? Does the project offer significant opportunities for funding from new sources? Does the project help build research networks?

Impact- The likelihood that the project will lead to additional collaborations between UofSC and Prisma Health?

For more information or questions, please visit our website or contact the UofSC School of Medicine, Research Center for Transforming Health @ RCTH@usc.med.sc.edu.