2016 Health Disparities Pilot Grants

Request for Proposals

The University of Minnesota Program in Health Disparities Research announces the 2016 Pilot Grants in Health Disparities Research. These grants are designed to encourage community-initiated research and foster sustainable long-term collaboration between community-based organizations and academic researchers on research projects focused on reducing and eliminating health disparities. Priority will be given to projects that have a high likelihood of leading to future funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other federal, state, or private funding agencies. Priority will also be given to projects that are grounded in the principles of community-based participatory research as described in the University of Minnesota’s Performance of Community-based Research: Guidance Statement (PDF) and take into account the elements and principles noted in the Research Partnership Checklist. Proposed projects must have a strong community engagement component, evidenced by engaging people from the race/ethnicity and/or socio-cultural characteristics of the community that is being served in all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation of the proposed research project.

Prior awardees are eligible to apply with new or expansions of previous projects.

Based on the priorities indicated by our funding stakeholders, the proposals should focus on 1) health disparities from second hand smoke in Minnesota, 2) cancer-related health disparities in Minnesota, 3) any health disparities topic in North Minneapolis, or 4) broader sharing of new knowledge generated from a research project (e.g., dissemination research) related to above 3 topics. Note:

- “Broader sharing” refers to targeting a specific audience(s) to send research findings to. For example, a plan that focuses on individuals, groups, organizations, and/or decision makers to receive findings from a research study. New and creative ways of sharing information is highly encouraged. “New knowledge” refers to all types of research-generated information or resources. For example, new products or materials from an intervention, findings from a survey, and focus group and interview results. “Generated from a research project” refers to a) research generated from a prior or existing community-academic partnership and b) includes all types of study designs. Dissemination research projects must have a rigorous evaluation component. Grant awardees previously funded by PHDR are encouraged to apply.

- Cancer is a complex disease with many possible causes. Examples of cancer disparities pilot grants include but are not limited to a focus on disparities related to specific cancer risk factors, including lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, diet, and physical activity; environmental exposures to different types of chemicals and radiation; and, certain types of infections known to cause cancer (e.g., Hepatitis B and liver cancer, HPV and cervical cancer). Other cancer-related topics are appropriate too.

- Please contact us if you have any questions about the “fit” of your topic for this request for proposals.

Projects are supported for a one-year period. In 2016, we expect to make up to 4 awards with a maximum award amount of $25,000 in direct costs. Indirect costs are not permitted in this grant mechanism.
An overview of the pilot grant is below. Please see the 2016 Health Disparities Pilot Grant FAQs for additional information.

2016 Pilot Grants Schedule:
■ January 21: Request for Proposals announced to PHDR members
■ January 26: Request for Proposals announced broadly
■ February 12: Pre-application workshop (highly recommended but not required; see details below)
■ February 26: Deadline for mandatory Letter of Interest (2,500 character max.) on a health disparities research topic from community-based organization with an interest in health disparities.
■ March 4: Community-academic teams invited to submit full application
■ February 29-March 25: Matching process completed for Community-based organizations without an academic researcher matched by Program staff and invited to submit full proposal
■ May 2: Full research proposals due from research teams (page limits: 4 page narrative, 25 page proposal)
■ May 3–May 24: Grants reviewed by committee of community and academic experts
■ May 25–June 8: Grants reviewed by PHDR Advisory Board members
■ June 10: 2016 Grant awardees announced

Pre-Application Workshop*
• February 12, 2016 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.-WEBINAR
* Participation is encouraged and free. RSVP to phdr@umn.edu by February 10.

2016 Pilot Grants Collaborating Organizations:
■ ClearWay Minnesota
■ University of Minnesota:
  o Program in Health Disparities Research
  o Masonic Cancer Center
  o Office for Business & Community Economic Development, The Community Health Initiative (w/ Medica)
  o Minnesota Center for Cancer Collaborations

Questions should be directed to Huda Ahmed, MS at ahmed177@umn.edu
Eligibility and Process

All community-based, 501(c)(3) organizations with an interest in health disparities are eligible to apply in partnership with an academic researcher from any campus at the University of Minnesota.

Submitting a letter of interest is the first required step in the process. Organizations with or without an established working relationship with an academic researcher are welcome to submit a letter of interest. After the letters of interest have been received, organizations without an established working relationship with an academic researcher will be matched with a researcher with similar interests at the University of Minnesota by Program staff. Continued consideration will be based on suitable matches; if no appropriate match is made, the applicant will be duly informed. After the matches have been made, each project will consist of a minimum of two co-principal investigators—including a member(s) from a community-based organization and an academic researcher(s). If the matched research teams agree to work together, they will be invited to submit a full research proposal.

A list of past awardees can be found here.

Review and Scoring Criteria: This is the exact criteria given to grant reviewers.

a) Specific aims – Please include clearly stated and measurable objectives.

b) Background and significance – Does this study address an important health issue? How will health disparities be reduced and the health of the target population be improved? Please describe any relevant experience with the proposed health issue.

c) Community – Who is/are the group(s) that will benefit from this research project? How are they involved in the proposed research? Is there a community-academic decision making process in place? Is community represented in decision making in all levels of the project? (For reference, See Partnership Check List Here)

d) Methodology – Is the research plan and methodology sound? Are the research methods appropriate for the proposed research question? Dissemination research projects must have rigorous evaluation. Evaluations might include: Who did the resources/information reach? Did the audience find the resources/information useful? How did the audience use the resources/information? How do they intend to use the resources/information in the future?

e) Dissemination – How and to whom will the findings be disseminated? Are dissemination costs included in the budget? All proposals must at a minimum address how and to whom the findings will be disseminated and budget accordingly.

f) Long-Term Plan – What are the implications of this project for advancing this type of research? What are your plans for future research and funding?

Priority will be given to projects that are a part of a plan for seeking future funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other federal, state, or private funding agencies. Additionally, one of our collaborating partners would like to support one project that focuses on health disparities in North Minneapolis; special consideration will be given to projects that focus on North Minneapolis.

Duration of Support
Projects are supported for a one-year period. Grant recipients are required to submit a mid-project and final-project progress report with updated budget as stipulated with other conditions listed in the award letter.

Review Process and Awards
All applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of individuals from the local community and the University of Minnesota. Applicants will be notified of the review outcome by June 17, 2016. Awards will be made for one-year. Awardees will be asked required to attend a post award workshop and to present a poster about the project at the annual poster session and awards banquet Fall 2016. Awardees may also be asked to present results of the project to the PHDR Advisory Board or at other program meetings or events. More information is available in the 2015 Health Disparities Pilot Grant FAQs.

Application Instructions
1. Letter of Intent templates can be found at http://z.umn.edu/phdrpilotgrants. Submit completed mandatory Letters of Intent to phdr@umn.edu by 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 26, 2016.

2. Community-university teams invited to submit a full proposal can submit the full application to phdr@umn.edu

   Application Deadline: Please note that there are multiple steps involved in this application which begins with submitting the letter of interest. Full research proposals from matched research teams are due Monday, May 2, 2016 by 4:00 p.m. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If you have any Internet connectivity problems while submitting the interest letter or full application, please contact Chesay Colson at 612-301-9437.