2017 Health Disparities Pilot Grants

Request for Proposals

The University of Minnesota Program in Health Disparities Research (PHDR) announces the 2017 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, as well as projects that demonstrate a clear contribution by both community and academic partner. 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 PHDR Gold Standard 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 proposed research project, as well as increasing skills, connections, and growth opportunities for all partners.

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 2017, 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.

2017 Pilot Grants Schedule:
- January 30: Request for Proposals announced to PHDR members
- February 1: Request for Proposals announced broadly
- February 17 Pre-application workshop (highly recommended but not required; see details below)
- February 27: 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 6: Community-academic teams invited to submit full application
- March 24: 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 12: 2017 Grant awardees announced

**Pre-Application Workshop**
* February 17, 2016 from 10:00-12:00 a.m. -
  717 Delaware St SE, Conference Room 105
  Minneapolis, MN 55414
* Participation is encouraged and free. RSVP to phdr@umn.edu by February 13.

2017 Pilot Grants Collaborating Organizations:
- ClearWay Minnesota
- University of Minnesota:
  - Program in Health Disparities Research
  - Masonic Cancer Center
  - Office for Business & Community Economic Development, The Community Health Initiative (w/ Medica)
  - 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: Reviewers will be asked to evaluate proposal on 6 criteria, listed below.

a) Specific aims — Each proposal should have clearly stated Specific Aims with measurable objectives. This section should include a clear statement of the primary research question(s) being addressed by the proposed study.

b) Background and significance — This section should address the following questions: 1) What is the significance of the health disparity topic or health issue being addressed? 2) What is currently known about the health disparity topic? 3) What gaps in knowledge will the proposed study address? 4) How will the proposed study reduce health disparities and improve the health of the target population? This section also should describe the applicants’ relevant experience with the proposed health disparity issue.

c) Community — In this section, please address the following: 1) Who is/are the group(s) that will benefit from this research project? 2) How are they involved in the proposed research? 3) What community-academic decision-making process is in place for the study? 4) How are community represented in decision making in each level of the project?

d) Methodology — The proposal should include a clear description of the study design and assessment or evaluation tools or other methods appropriate to the Specific Aims and research questions. Dissemination research projects must have rigorous evaluation methods that are clearly described. For example, 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 — The proposal should describe how and to whom the findings will be disseminated. Dissemination costs also should be included in the budget, with appropriate justifications.

f) Long-Term Plan — The proposal should describe: 1) Implications of this project for advancing this type of research; and 2) Plans for future research and funding after the project is completed.

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 12, 2017**. 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 2017. Awardees may also be asked to present results of the project to the PHDR Advisory Board or at other program meetings or events. Additionally, all awardees will need to commit to PHDR’s partnership problem solving process.

**Application Instructions**
1. **Letter of Intent templates can be found at** [http://z.umn.edu/phdrpilotgrants](http://z.umn.edu/phdrpilotgrants). Submit completed mandatory Letters of Intent to phdr@umn.edu by **4:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2017**.

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 **Tuesday, May 2, 2017 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 program staff at 612-625-1654.**