

Request for Applications

2021 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.

Purpose and Criteria

Overview: The purpose of this Research Seed Grant initiative is to facilitate collaborative pilot research activities between the University of South Carolina and Prisma Health. These projects should focus on improvement of health system performance, population health, or biomedical science that translates to clinical practice and improved patient outcomes. 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: Funding for the pilot grants will be provided by the UofSC Vice President for Research, the UofSC School of Medicine Columbia, the UofSC College of Pharmacy, the UofSC College of Nursing, and the UofSC College of Engineering and Computing. Projects may be funded up to \$20,000, and up to 8-10 pilot grants will be awarded.

Funding Period: Applicants may request a project period of 15 months beginning April 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

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

Applicant Agreement: 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 project 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.

Application Requirements:

- **Letter of Intent: Due December 7th, 2020**

All applicants are **required** to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) that includes the following information. Letters of intent will not be used in the evaluation of applications.

Letters of Intent requirements:

Name, email, telephone number, Institution & Department

Descriptive title of the project

Brief overview of proposed project (max 250 words)

Listing of co-investigators, and their institutions/departments

Submit Letter of Intent to The Research Center for Transforming Health at

rcth@uscm.edu

• **Online Application: Due February 5th, 2021**

The following information will be required to complete the online application: [Online 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)
- Project Budget and Budget Justification
 - Potential funding to other departments and/or institutions must be clearly stated on the budget.
- NIH Style [Biosketch](#) for investigators and any key personnel
- Current & Pending Support Document
- 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 to bridge a funding gap between grants.

The PI's Department/Division Business Administrators shall be responsible for all human resource, procurement and accounting activities for the funded project account(s).

Allowable Costs:

- Salary and fringe benefit support for the PI up to 5% effort (subject to NIH salary cap)
- Salary and fringe benefits of research project personnel
- 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 system performance, population health, and/or biomedical sciences.

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?

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

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