



Request for Applications

Global Health Reciprocal Innovation Planning Grants

A Joint Initiative Sponsored by
Indiana CTSI and Indiana University Center for Global Health Equity

DEADLINES

Planning grant applications are due April 14, 2025 by 11:59pm ET

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP.

The WebCAMP user's guide is also available under the funding announcement:

<https://indianactsi.org/translational-research-development/open-funding-opportunities/>

I. Purpose

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), in cooperation with the Indiana University (IU) Center for Global Health Equity and partners at the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University, seeks to foster innovative global health research partnerships and projects to improve the health and well-being of Hoosiers and communities around the world. This collaborative effort supports the development of global health research partnerships that foster reciprocal innovation with partners in underserved communities in Indiana and globally with a focus on identifying solutions in the following priority areas: non-communicable diseases, infant and maternal health, infectious diseases, mental health, and health systems strengthening. We define reciprocal innovation as a collaborative process that supports the co-development of health innovations and exchange of lessons learned with the goal of mutual benefit to health partners in both the low- or middle-income countries (LMIC) and the United States.

The goal of this request for applications (RFA) is to facilitate the planning and designing of reciprocal innovation projects focusing on one of the identified priority areas. Projects must be led by a principal investigator from one of the three research Indiana CTSI institutions (IU, Purdue, and University of Notre Dame) as part of a collaborative partnership with local partners (e.g., Indiana state health partners, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, health systems, government agencies) and global partners from low- or middle-income countries (LMIC). Successful applicants will demonstrate an understanding of shared health challenges in underserved communities in Indiana and LMIC settings as well as a commitment to the development of new programs or partnerships that will result in the development and demonstration of reciprocal innovation projects in the future. This award is designed to support the preliminary phase of partnership development and project planning. It may be used to support: travel to engage partners, development of project teams, identifying promising health innovations for demonstration, development of evidence to support the demonstration of a reciprocal innovation in Indiana or LMIC setting, training to prepare for a reciprocal innovation demonstration project, and other activities needed to prepare competitive demonstration grant applications for reciprocal innovation.

<p>What is Reciprocal Innovation?</p> <p>Reciprocal innovation builds on the concept of 'reverse innovation,' through which healthcare innovations and technologies are designed and tested in under-resourced countries around the world and brought back to developed countries such as the United States to address important health challenges. However, reverse innovation implies a unidirectional process that does not continue to engage global health stakeholder in refining and implementing these approaches. Reciprocal Innovation evolves the concept of reverse innovation to create a bidirectional research agenda that provides mutual benefit to both sides and identifies high quality innovations from global health partnerships for demonstration, replication, and dissemination through a statewide system.</p>

Competitive applications will focus on shared health challenges faced by people in underserved settings in Indiana and LMICs. Applications in any subject areas addressing critical challenges to human health in resource-limited settings in all areas of science, environmental science, medicine, social science and other relevant fields not specifically listed, are encouraged to apply.

II. Expected Outcomes

This RFA will support planning and training activities that will lead to competitive funding applications for projects demonstrating reciprocal innovation either based in the US/Indiana or an LMIC site. Projects should seek to facilitate the planning and execution of focused collaborations that will **(1) address a significant health challenge that is shared across Indiana and global settings and (2) that**

disproportionately affects marginalized/underserved populations. Projects can focus on a specific disease condition(s) or health or social system challenge that affects health outcomes and/or access to and quality of health care. Examples include but are not limited to:

(1) Non-communicable diseases

(2) Infant and maternal health

(3) Mental health

(4) Infectious diseases

(5) Health systems strengthening and access to quality health care, including health workforce capacity building, health care technologies, health financing, and community-based care.

At the end of the planning grant, successful awardees should have a strategic and evidence-based plan to develop high impact solutions that provide reciprocal benefit to the communities Indiana CTSI institutions serve at home and abroad, which includes:

- Identified innovation that addresses one of the five priority health challenges identified above;
- Well-developed strategy for demonstrating (i.e., testing/evaluating, implementing, or scaling up, etc.) innovation identified during the planning grant;
- A multidisciplinary team to conduct demonstration efforts, including the principal investigator from an Indiana CTSI institution and collaborations between Indiana health partners and LMIC partners;

All applications must provide a strong justification explaining why planning support is needed to further the development of projects likely to be successful and advance the health outcomes as described above.

Example Projects:

Needs Assessment: To begin planning for future demonstration projects, researchers may first wish to conduct an initial assessment to identify issues, needs, and resources with a collaborating partner in Indiana and/or an LMIC site. Local partners may have specific health challenges and barriers within their communities that need to be addressed. Researchers can work with these partners to identify relevant health challenges, priority focus areas, and opportunities for reciprocal innovation interventions. Studies can be non-experimental and descriptive in design, using qualitative data from semi-structured interviews with a purposeful sample of key informants.

Developing International Partnerships: One of the key concepts of reciprocal innovation is to strengthen global health research partnerships to exchange lessons learned with mutual benefit to health partners in both LMICs and the United States. Identifying an international partner may require tasks such as team identification and formation, exploratory visits to identify innovations, team building and training, etc. By identifying and building these relationships, researchers begin the framework to developing future, high impact demonstration projects in collaboration with an LMIC site.

Training: Indiana CTSI researchers may provide opportunities to train community health workers, hospital systems, etc. in order to prepare them for larger projects or applications. These trainings can help increase reciprocal innovation buy-in, technical ability and knowledge, and strengthen partnerships.

Site Visits: To better understand community needs, challenges, or other reciprocal innovation

programs, Indiana CTSI researchers can partner with health systems to engage in site visits, either local or abroad, to see a program in action and develop initial strategies for replication or reciprocal innovation. The above examples are only a few of the many opportunities to apply global health lessons to local health challenges. Applicants are not limited to these examples.

III. **Eligibility**

This funding opportunity is open to researchers at Indiana CTSI partner institutions at IU, Purdue (West Lafayette campus only), and University of Notre Dame including graduate-level trainees, post-graduate fellows, and full-time faculty. Eligible proposals must include at least one principal investigator from an Indiana CTSI partner institution. Principal investigators/project directors must have the requisite skills, knowledge, time, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Eligible proposals must also be collaborative and include at least one partner. Partners may include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, health systems, government agencies in Indiana and at an LMIC partner site.

IV. **Funding Amounts**

Applicants may request up to \$10,000 for a period of one year.

University of Notre Dame Matching Funds: University of Notre Dame Eck Institute for Global Health will provide up to \$10,000 matching funds for successful University of Notre Dame faculty and affiliated members of the Eck Institute for Global Health. Researchers who meet this criterion may submit a budget inclusive of this additional funding. For questions on eligibility, please contact Nydia Morales-Soto (nsoto@nd.edu).

V. **Application Technical Requirements**

Eligible candidates should complete, sign and upload the application using the **Start a Submission** link: [GH Planning Link](#)

Each application should include the following items:

1. **Face Page (Template included)**

2. **Project Summary/Abstract**

Provide a brief summary (300-400 words) describing the project focus, its significance, expected outcomes, international partner(s), and proposed plans for the expansion of future research if pilot funding is awarded.

3. **Project Description (No more than two pages, single-spaced, Arial 11-point font, and 1/2-inch margins)**

a. Reason and significance of planning activities

Describe in detail the reason planning activities are needed, the potential for mutual benefit in Indiana and/or at an LMIC partner site, and the potential significance of the proposed research.

b. Reciprocal Innovation

Describe in detail how your project qualifies as Reciprocal Innovation. Be sure to address the mutual challenge between the LMIC partner site and Indiana/US, the shared solution, and your plan for implementation.

c. Specific aims

Summarize the specific aims and objectives of the proposed planning activity.

d. *Description of proposed planning activities*

Describe the specific planning activities to be undertaken as part of this award.

e. *Collaborative partners*

Provide a detailed description of all collaborating partners who will participate in planning activities and describe their anticipated role and contributions to planning activities. Applicants may involve more than one partner.

f. *Expected planning outcomes*

Describe anticipated planning outcomes including next steps for implementing, sustaining, and expanding the innovation research conducted through this award after its expiration.

4. Proposed project timeline and milestones

Describe the timeline for all major components of the project including descriptions of key milestones.

5. Detailed Budget & Budget Justification

All applications require a concise, convincing, and realistic explanation of the proposed budget, which includes all planned expenditures. Submitted budgets that request the maximum without adequate explanation for that level of support, if awarded, will be reduced to a justifiable funding level based on the proposed project. If there are other resources committed to the project, please indicate these funds in the total budget. Total project costs may exceed \$10,000 when other funding entities have committed to the project.

No indirect costs or finance and administration costs are allowed. However, overhead costs necessary for the administration of the award at an LMIC partner site may be budgeted as direct costs. Overhead costs should not exceed 8% of the total budget. Overhead costs are included in the total direct award amount not to exceed \$10,000. Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment or for meeting-related/hospitality expenditures (no exceptions) Travel expenses are allowed, but travel expenses are limited to those that are demonstrated to be necessary to achieve the aims of the proposed project.

Projects that provide matching funds from their home institutions, LMIC partners, or other sponsors will receive preference for funding.

Proposed project periods cannot exceed 12 months from the project start date. One 12-month no-cost extension may be granted after following the CTSI's request process <https://indianactsi.org/translational-research-development/no-cost-extension/> .

6. NIH-formatted bio-sketch or CV

The primary project leader and co-leader(s) must submit a bio-sketch or CV. Limit 5 pages per bio-sketch/CV.

7. Letters of Support (Maximum of 3)

Applicants must include at least one letter of support from collaborating partners. No more than 3 letters of support may be submitted.

8. Internal Research Board (IRB) Approval (if proposed planning activities include human subjects

research)

Note that local IRB approval for all involved institutions must be obtained before award funds can be dispersed.

VI. Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria and scored using the NIH scoring system defined below:

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact			

Scored criteria include the following:

1. **Overall Impact:** How likely is the project to produce a sustained program that will demonstrate a high impact reciprocal innovation in one of the four identified health priorities?
2. **Significance:** How well does the project address one of the five health priorities for reciprocal innovation (non-communicable diseases, infant mortality and maternal health, COVID-19, infectious disease, and/or healthcare access) and its potential to produce a high impact reciprocal innovation project for demonstration in Indiana or at an LMIC partner site?
3. **Project Collaborators:** How well-suited to the project are the primary collaborators? How feasible is the proposed collaboration and will the collaboration produce high quality outputs?
4. **Planning Activities:** How well will the proposed planning activities achieve the specific aims? Are these activities evidence based or best practices?
5. **Future Expansion:** Will the proposed activities lead to the development of a high impact reciprocal innovation project for demonstration in Indiana and/or an LMIC partner site?
6. **Reciprocal Innovation:** Does the project demonstrate a reciprocal innovation approach to global health research, including a project that seeks to clearly identify or address a shared health challenge and/or health solution through their research?

In addition to the above scored criteria, reviewers will evaluate the proposal’s focus on strengthening collaborative multidisciplinary research collaborations between Indiana CTSI partner institutions at IU,

Purdue, and University of Notre Dame and key academic research centers, with particular emphasis given to building up existing international partnerships with high potential for reciprocal innovation. All successful proposals must include a budget and budget justification.

VII. Funding Decisions

The review committee will submit final rankings and scores to the Indiana CTSI Global Health Research chair for review. The chair will make final funding recommendations to the Indiana CTSI Strategy Committee. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the funding decisions by July 15, 2025. Specific feedback will be provided as part of funding decisions.

VIII. Post-Award Requirements

Projects selected for funding will be expected to comply with the following requirements:

- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure** – All personnel must have an up-to-date conflict of interest disclosure form on file with Indiana University. Non-IU affiliated personnel should submit a non-IU affiliate conflict of interest disclosure form available online: http://researchcompliance.iu.edu/coi/coi_disclosure.html.
- **Responsible Conduct of Research (if applicable)** – Documentation that all personnel in the project have completed a course in the responsible conduct of research such as CITI or an equivalent training. This is only required for projects proposing to collect and publish preliminary research data.
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval (if applicable)** – The project must provide documentation that all required IRB applications have been submitted no later than 30 days from the day a Notice of Award is received. Documentation of IRB approval must be provided before award funds will be released. This is only required for projects proposing to utilize human subjects.

Once all regulatory documentation is on file, the Indiana CTSI Finance Office will facilitate the release of funds to the academic partner.

Reporting Requirements

Funded recipients will be required to:

- Submit a final report including a complete description of the work accomplished and related budget expenditures.
- Present their project results to the Indiana CTSI Global Health leadership committee, if requested.
- Present their project at an Indiana CTSI or IU Center for Global Health Equity-sponsored event, if requested.
- Allow project findings to be shared on the Reciprocal Innovation Online Repository. Please inform CTSI of any intellectual property or confidential information that may not be appropriate to share.

If necessary and deemed appropriate, a 12-month no-cost extension (NCE) may be granted to grant awardees. Awardees are encouraged to calculate the estimated time needed to complete the project and to request the maximum amount of time required.

Requests for progress and final project reports will be sent in December. Reports should include a summary of:

- Project activities completed and outcomes.
- Plans for next steps and future demonstration of identified innovations.
- Every year for up to five years after completion of the project, the IU Center for Global Health may contact recipients to complete a status report on the project; and gather data on publications, extramural funding, or IP that resulted from the project.
- The project is required to acknowledge Indiana CTSI support in all presentations, publications, and reports.

IX. RFA Timeline

RFA Release Date	January 23, 2025
Proposal Application Deadline	April 14, 2025
Notification of Award Decisions	June 20, 2025
Grant Start Date	August 1, 2025
Annual Progress Report Due	December
Initial Project Period Ends	July 31, 2026
Closeout Report Due (unless NCE is approved)	December 2026
Status Reports	December 2027-2030

X. Contact Information

Questions regarding this opportunity should be sent to Sarah Glock (sardowns@iu.edu), Program Management Specialist with Community Health Partnerships (CHEP) AND Dr. Laura Ruhl (ljruhl@iu.edu), Director of Reciprocal Innovation at IU Center for Global Health Equity (IUCGHE).