

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Request for Pilot Project Proposals with a Focus on Reducing Cancer Disparities

IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center is inviting proposals for pilot/feasibility research projects with a focus on reducing cancer disparities. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) defines "cancer disparities" as adverse differences in cancer incidence (new cases), cancer prevalence (all existing cases), cancer death (mortality), cancer survivorship, and burden of cancer or related health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States. These population groups may be characterized by age, disability, education, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, income, or race. People who are poor, lack health insurance, incarcerated and/or are medically underserved (have limited or no access to effective health care) - regardless of ethnic and racial background - often bear a greater burden of disease than the general population (See <http://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crhd/about-health-disparities>).

A primary goal of the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center is to stimulate multi-disciplinary and translational research. IUSCCC also intends to initiate Cancer Disparities working group in near future to further stimulate research in this area. **The purpose of this Cancer Disparity RFA is to promote collaboration in the form of pilot projects in cancer disparity research.**

The duration of this pilot funding is one year, and the budget should not exceed \$50,000. The principal investigator must be an IUSCCC member (faculty who are associate or full members of a Research Program, Affiliate members or Unaligned members). Inter-programmatic collaboration is encouraged. Funds should not be used for fellowship or training purposes. Applicants may have received prior or current extramural research funding, but the proposed project should clearly be separate from previous/current funded projects.

Notice of Intent: Applicants must send an email to Vicki Clements (vlclemen@iu.edu) declaring their intent to apply. Please include the names of all collaborators/team members as well as a 1-2 sentence description of the project and tentative project title. Applicants' eligibility will be reviewed and they will be sent a response inviting a full application. **Deadline for submission of NOI: October 9, 2024**

Applications will be completed via WebCAMP. A link to the application will be sent after an applicant's Notice of Intent has been approved. Final applications are due by **October 31, 2024. The deadline is firm, and no extension will be granted.**

Final application formatting: The body of the proposal should not exceed three pages plus one page for Aims (total of 4 pages or less). Applications must follow NIH guidelines and formatting (see Sect. 2.6, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>).

Format for full proposal: Abstract + 1 page Specific Aims + 3 pages for Research Strategy (items C through G, below):

- A. Abstract (30 lines) – not included in the page limit, but must adhere to NIH formatting of ≤ 30 lines
- B. Lay summary of the project (no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ page in length; not included in the page limit)
- C. Specific Aims
 1. Problem
 2. Aims and Hypotheses
 3. Outcomes
- D. Significance and Background
 1. Importance of problem to field
 2. Any relevant preliminary data to support hypothesis
 3. How will project increase scientific knowledge, clinical practice etc.
- E. Investigators
 1. Is there adequate expertise to support this study? Please detail mentorship support and any relevant collaborations, particularly with junior faculty.
- F. Approach

1. Overall strategy, methodology, data collection, measures, interventions, theory & sample, power & data analyses.
- G. Relevant for future development
 1. How will this project lead to future funding?
 2. Pathway for translation of the project into the clinic

(4 Page Limit Ends Here)

Additional documents that must be included with the application are listed below.

1. References
2. Budget
 - A detailed budget and justification must be attached. Proposals should not include percent effort (salary) for the Principal Investigator(s).
3. Biosketches of all investigators
4. Timeline

An expert review committee will review all proposals. Previous pilot funding received by the PI and results of that pilot funding will be taken into consideration during the review process. Final funding decisions will be made by the IUSCCC Senior Leaders Committee and based on scientific review of applications and funding priorities.

1. Review Criteria are:
 - Relevance to cancer disparities research
 - Scientific merit
 - Potential for sustaining intra- and inter- disciplinary collaborations
 - Potential for subsequent R01 or equivalent level external funding
 - Success of prior IUSCCC-funded pilot projects lead by the PI*

***Note: if you have received previous pilot funding, your outcomes from that funding will be evaluated and considered in this review. It is expected that all pilot funding will lead to submission of externally reviewed research grants.**

The timetable is:

Notice of intent to apply:	October 9, 2024
Completed application submitted:	October 31, 2024
Anticipated funding start date:	January 1, 2025