



Request for Pilot Grant Applications

The NIH-funded Texas D-CFAR invites Pilot Project grant applications offered through its Developmental Core and the **CFAR Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pathway Initiative (CDEIPI)**. Participating institutes include The University of Houston, Texas Southern University, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Baylor College of Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Proposals in all areas of HIV/AIDS basic, clinical, behavioral, substance use, and implementation science research are welcome. Applications focused on substance use are particularly encouraged. **Clinical trials are not allowed.** The Texas D-CFAR is especially interested in proposals aligned with its theme – “Ending HIV and Optimizing Health in Texas,” including research on Ending the HIV Epidemic (<https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>), reducing health disparities and research that focuses on or includes community engagement components. Faculty with primary appointments at participating institutes and who are early-stage investigators (defined here: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>) or established investigators new to HIV/AIDS research are eligible to apply.

Participants must agree to engage in mentoring in the career pathway through: a) the engagement of undergraduate, predoctoral, OR post-doctoral trainees as members of the research team. Applications must include a description of approaches to recruit undergraduate students or trainees to join the research team, a description of how trainees will engage in the research, as well as a mentoring plan; and b) a statement that the team (i.e., PI and trainees engaged in the research) agrees to participate in quarterly virtual multi-level mentoring sessions to provide career exposure and guidance to high school, undergraduate, predoctoral, and/or postdoctoral trainees.

Pilot Project grants will be awarded for one year. **Budgets cannot exceed \$50,000.** Indirect costs will not be awarded.

The LOI for application submission is due on November 4, 2024, and full applications are due by January 20, 2025. While the LOI is recommended, it is not required and will not determine eligibility. However, submitting an LOI is strongly recommended as it will help us find the best reviewers for the applicant. It should be one page long and include the project title, a brief description, and a list of key personnel with their titles, institutions, and roles. All investigators who submit an LOI should plan to submit a complete application. Application instructions are attached.

The Developmental Core can assist early-stage investigators seeking to identify a mentor to assist in Pilot Project applications and career development. Additionally, the D-CFAR Community Advisory Board (CAB) can assist applicants in the development of projects that involve community participants. Submit questions to adnewell@bcm.edu

Please send LOI and applications to carmen.avalos@bcm.edu.