Request for Pilot Grant Applications

The NIH-funded Texas D-CFAR invites Pilot Project grant applications offered through its Developmental Core. Participating institutes include Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (San Antonio), The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (Cizik School of Nursing, McGovern Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Biomedical Informatics, School of Dentistry, MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School, and MD Anderson Cancer Center). 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. Proposals for feasibility studies in non-human primates at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute are encouraged. Faculty with primary appointments at participating institutes and who are early-stage investigators (ESI) or established investigators new to HIV/AIDS research are eligible to apply. An ESI is defined as a Program Director/Principal Investigator who has completed their terminal research degree or has finished postgraduate clinical training and has not previously successfully competed as a PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award, *regardless of when they completed their degree or training.*

Although proposals from individual investigators are welcome, collaborations between investigators at two or more D-CFAR institutes are encouraged. Co-investigators may be from institutes that are not D-CFAR institutes. Pilot Project grants will be awarded for one year and budgets range from $50,000 (individual applicants) to $100,000 (collaborative applicants) in direct costs only***. Budgets cannot exceed $50,000 at a single Texas D-CFAR institution.*** Indirect costs will not be awarded.

The LOI for application submission is due on December 7, 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 requests for assistance, questions, LOI, and applications to: carmen.avalos@bcm.edu.