

## 2019-2020 ReACH/IIMS POPULATION HEALTH PILOT GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Due: January 13, 2020 by 5:00 pm CST** (no exceptions). Awards will be announced on or about March 2, 2020.

**Mission:** To foster population health research within UT Health San Antonio and to improve health outcomes in the 38-county South Texas Catchment Area through career development of population health researchers.

**Strategy:** The UT Health San Antonio Population Health Strategic Plan, which was developed in conjunction with the UT System Collaboration on Population Health Innovation and Improvement (UT-CoPHII), will address the most pressing health needs identified by South Texas citizens. One of the plan's key focus areas is conducting population health research and developing interventions that target underlying social, economic and environmental conditions, particularly in the areas of obesity/diabetes, maternal/child health, mental health/substance use disorders, and smoking [now including e-cigarettes].

The Center for Research to Advance Community Health (ReACH), in conjunction with the IIMS is providing research grant funding to junior researchers, in conjunction with a senior faculty mentor and a community partner, to address the areas identified in the UT Health San Antonio Population Health Strategic Plan. The goal of this program is to build population health research capacity at the faculty and community level. These relationships should support junior researchers and community-based researchers in conducting specific projects as well as establishing the faculty member's overall research career plan, which must be in an area of population health. This funding announcement is specifically intended for highly innovative pilot projects with a high likelihood of building community partnerships, enhancing Population Health mentoring capacity at UT Health San Antonio, and culminating in additional external funding.

**Description:** In order to build infrastructure for population health research, pilot projects funding will be focused on projects with the greatest likelihood of achieving the following objectives:

- Foster active collaboration/engagement with community partners and leadership
- Facilitate team science at UT Health San Antonio
- Assist practitioners in delivery of high quality care reflecting best practices and science
- Promote community or population health
- Improve health outcomes

Innovative, multidisciplinary pilot projects in T3/T4 translational research focused on health disparities, health outcomes important to patients and the communities in the South Texas Catchment Area, and interventions to address those priorities will receive top priority. While the program is not restricted to specific health topics, areas identified by the South Texas Catchment Area will be prioritized. These areas include obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, mental health, healthcare access/insurance, health education and chronic disease prevention (e.g. diet, exercise, self-care), maternal/child health, and smoking/vaping cessation.

**Eligibility:** [ReACH Center members](#) at the post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty level (Instructor/Assistant Professor) and community partners interested in pursuing research focused on population health priorities. All PIs, faculty mentors and community partners must be ReACH Center members. ReACH membership is free; to register, go to: <https://redcap.uthscsa.edu/REDCap/surveys/?s=HC377LAEDW>. We define community partners as key stakeholders who play a vital and important role in developing and implementing projects. Community partners **should not** represent the same institution as the academic partner and vice versa. The application should clearly

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articulate the role of the community partner(s) in collaborating on the study's aims, design, methods, data collection, analyses, and dissemination and implementation of results. For the academic part of the team, all projects should identify a faculty mentor and include a career development and mentoring plan.

**Applicants applying for this pilot program may not simultaneously apply for a \$5,000 IIMS Community Engagement Small Project Grant award for a similar project.**

**Amount and terms:** Funding up to \$15,000 (indirect costs not covered) will be considered for 1-year projects. Funds may not cover salaries for other faculty or fellow stipends, but may be used for research assistants and community member compensation. Funds are available for up to 2 projects, contingent upon the submission of a sufficient number of scientifically meritorious applications.

Allowable expenses include:

- ClinCard research incentives<sup>1</sup>
- Consumable supplies and equipment
- Consulting fees
- Journal publications (\$500 maximum)
- Software
- Food and beverages for community meetings
- Travel, including mileage and conference registrations (when possible, we prefer that community partners be included in presentations)
- Other justifiable and essential expenditures

Non-allowable expenses include:

- Faculty and staff salaries
- Facilities and administrative (indirect) costs
- Door prizes
- Petty cash or gift card reimbursements
- Professional or society memberships

All awardees will be expected to present research results at a ReACH Center Front Porch Club meeting as well as make a presentation of research results as a part of the Lilia Martinez Educational Lecture Series in Laredo, TX. This lecture will be open to students, practicing health professionals or anyone interested in the topic of the funded project, including medical students who may one day practice in the community. The ReACH Center will support the cost of travel to Laredo to fulfill this requirement, so it will not need to be budgeted in pilot project funds.

ReACH **will not** issue checks directly to awardees. Instead, awardee accounts will be centralized at ReACH. Budgeted expenses will be supported via supply orders and payment vouchers. Other budgeted expenses may require submitting an invoice. Funds for budgeted expenses of projects co-led by other non-UTHSCSA academic partners will be disbursed as invoices are received.

**Application submission:** Applications should be submitted via Survey Monkey Apply. Uploaded documents should be formatted as PDF files, using Arial 11-point font, single spacing, and 0.5-inch margins on all sides. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the application being administratively withdrawn. The application should include the following:

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<sup>1</sup>Research teams seeking participant incentives are required to follow UTHSCSA Policy 7.7.2 [Management of Research Participant Payments](#) to ensure proper money handling procedures. ClinCard setup and reloading fees should be included in budgets, if applicable. For more info regarding study participant incentives, contact the [UTHSCSA Clinical Trials Office](#).

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- Project summary/abstract (NIH form page; 30-line maximum)
- Budget (NIH form page)
- Budget justification (NIH form page)
- Specific aims (1 page maximum)
- Career development plan and mentoring plan (1 page maximum)
- Research and dissemination/implementation plan, including roles of the community partners (4 pages maximum)
- Literature citations (1 page maximum)
- NIH Biosketch for all academic investigators (new NIH format, limit to 5 pages/investigator)
- Letters of collaboration and support

For projects involving the use of human subjects, funds will only be released upon receipt of (1) a copy of the official letter of approval by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) and (2) *CITI Human Subjects – Community Engaged Research and Community-Based Participatory Research* proof of training. The expectation is that institutional approvals (including IRB) will be promptly obtained and projects initiated/funds disbursed within 60 days of award. If a different timeline is anticipated, address this in the application. Awards may be revoked from awardees who excessively delay providing copies of these documents. Applicants must also be in compliance with institutional conflict of interest disclosure policies. A UT Health San Antonio Certificate of Proposal (COP) is required upon award.

**Review process and criteria:** Applications will be reviewed using NIH scoring. Merit will be scored based on:

- Is the proposal thoughtfully conceived and well written?
- Does this project address the award objectives and are the objectives likely to be met?
- Does the investigator team have the experience/infrastructure to meet the goals of the study within the proposed timeframe?
- Is there a demonstrated strong partnership between the faculty member(s) and community member(s)?
- Does the mentoring plan address the mentoring needs of the applicant?
- Is the budget appropriate to the project?
- If funded, how likely is it that this award lead to external funding?

Final funding decisions will be based on scientific merit, as well as programmatic considerations, such as breadth and depth of the overall pilot study portfolio, interaction among partners, community involvement, and balance among program areas and disciplines.

### **Awardee responsibilities:**

- Abide by NIH rules and regulations
- Abide by ReACH policies and procedures
- Provide demographic information as required before expenditures can be authorized
- Submit complete and timely progress reports
- Acknowledge support from ReACH in all project-related publications and reports

**Administrative management:** A 6-month progress report and a final report will be due at the conclusion of the pilot. Those who do not submit meaningful and timely reports may be ineligible for future funding.

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For more information about the ReACH/IIMS Population Health Pilot Grants Program, please visit <http://reach.uthscsa.edu/> or contact Sarah Lill at (210) 562-5551 or at [lills@uthscsa.edu](mailto:lills@uthscsa.edu).