



## 2009 Call for Applications

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program is pleased to announce grant opportunities for 2009. Awards are offered in three different field areas: [Basic Biomedical Sciences](#), [Clinical Sciences](#), and [Social and Behavioral Sciences](#). For many of the opportunities, submissions will be limited to targeted research themes. **Letters of Intent are required for all award types.** The table below is a summary of our award types and provides a quick overview.

### Key Dates

- **July 29** - Release of the Call for Applications, Instructions for the submission of Letters of Intent posted
- **August 21, 25** - Prospective Applicant Teleconferences: check the [CHRP Web Site](#) for details
- **September 4** - Letters of Intent due before noon, Pacific Time. Earlier submissions are encouraged.
- **October 23** - Applications due before noon, Pacific Time
- **April 1, 2010** - Award Period Start Date

Funding decisions will be made available in late February or early March.

For general inquiries about the Call for Applications, contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at: [parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386.

For general information about the California HIV/AIDS Research Program, please visit the [Program Web Site](#).

## Summary of 2009 Award Types

<b>BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</b>				
Grant Mechanism	Purpose	Targeted Themes	Award Amounts/Project Duration	Application Deadline
Innovative Pilot Studies (IDEA: Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Award)	For pilot studies that explore novel ideas, methods and approaches or challenge existing paradigms in HIV/AIDS research	Open to all basic biomedical science topics (Excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV)*	Up to \$160,000 total in direct costs for up to 2 years	Letter of Intent: Sept. 4 Application: Oct. 23
Research Training Awards	Dissertation and Postdoctoral Research fellowships under a designated mentor/advisor in a basic biomedical field related to HIV/AIDS	Open to all basic biomedical science topics (Excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV)*  *Proposals involving non-HIV/SIV viral models will be considered if there is a compelling relevance to HIV or SIV.	Dissertation Fellowships: Up to \$25,000 per year in direct costs for up to 2 years. Postdoctoral Fellowships: Up to \$45,000 per year in direct costs for up to 2 years. Up to \$3,000 per year available for health benefits.	Letter of Intent: Sept. 4 Application: Oct. 23

<b>CLINICAL SCIENCES</b>				
Grant Mechanism	Purpose	Targeted Themes	Award Amounts/Project Duration	Application Deadline
Innovative Pilot Studies (IDEA)	For pilot studies that apply novel methods and approaches or challenge existing paradigms in HIV/AIDS Research	Limited to studies addressing: <i>1. Complications, Co-Morbidities and Long Term Outcomes</i> <i>2. Therapeutic Strategies for HIV</i>	Up to \$250,000 total in direct costs for up to 2 years	Letter of Intent: Sept. 4 Application: Oct. 23

<b>SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES</b>				
Grant Mechanism	Purpose	Targeted Themes	Award Amounts/Project Duration	Application Deadline
Innovative Pilot Studies (IDEA)	For pilot studies that apply novel methods and approaches or challenge existing paradigms in HIV/AIDS Research	Limited to studies addressing: <i>1. HIV-Related Disparities in Highly Impacted, Under-researched Populations</i> <i>2. Contextual, Cultural, and Structural Issues in HIV Prevention and Care</i>	Up to \$200,000 total in direct costs for up to 2 years	Letter of Intent: Sept. 4 Application: Oct. 23
Community Collaborative Awards	HIV/AIDS research collaborations between scientific investigators & community-based, service or policy settings.	Limited to studies addressing: <i>1. Practice Informed Translational and Interventions Research</i>	Up to \$350,000 total in direct costs for up to 3 years	Letter of Intent: Sept. 4 Application: Oct. 23

## Details of 2009 Award Types

### 2009 BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

#### 1. Field Definition

Basic biomedical research involves laboratory studies aimed at understanding the underlying mechanisms of disease at the cellular or subcellular level, or laboratory studies aimed at understanding the mechanism of action or optimization of treatments by conducting research at the cellular or subcellular level. For this purpose, basic biomedical research excludes clinical research conducted with human subjects or on material of human origin for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects and includes in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual.

Disciplines supporting such research include biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology including virology, immunology, structural biology, organic chemistry and others.

#### 2. Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Awards (IDEAs)

##### A. General Overview of Award Mechanism

These awards support HIV/AIDS-related pilot studies within and across a variety of biomedical, social/behavioral, epidemiological, clinical, health services, policy and prevention research areas. IDEA research awards provide funds for studies that are innovative, creative, intellectually exciting, and show clear promise to yield findings that have a potential for high pay-off within the grant period and that show clear promise to yield findings that could serve as the basis for well-defined future work in a new area of HIV/AIDS research.

##### B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

IDEAs are intended for:

- All non-profit research, academic, and community-based institutions in California.
- New or experienced investigators testing new ideas and/or approaches.
- Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a flexible period up to a maximum of 24 months.
- Researchers may apply for more than one IDEA in one grant cycle, but may only accept one award for that cycle.
- The IDEA Award mechanism is intended both for investigators with experience in HIV-related disease research, as well as for new investigators who are interested in furthering a career path in HIV/AIDS research.

##### C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements (including re-submissions)

- Awards may not exceed a total of \$160,000 in direct costs over the entire proposed project period.

- Indirect costs up to 25% of eligible direct costs are provided to non-University of California institutions.
- The applicant must have principal investigator status at a nonprofit institution in California and must commit to the proposed project a minimum of 1.2 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort.
- Awards are contingent on the availability of funds, and after initial funding, allocations may be adjusted based on performance.

#### D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate IDEA applications for:

- The extent to which the proposed work is pilot in nature
- Significance and potential for advancing science in HIV/AIDS.
- Innovation in concept, approach, and/or methods.
- Clarity of the research problem.
- Strength and feasibility of the conceptual framework, analytical plan and methodology.
- Potential for the leverage of results to obtain subsequent funding to advance the project beyond the pilot stage.
- Investigator's demonstrated experience or potential (if new investigator) to conduct the proposed research.
- Attentiveness to the needs of California.

Support is limited to aspects of the proposal that are pilot in nature.

#### E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

Proposals must address topics in the basic biomedical sciences as defined under section-1 (Field Definition) above. In addition, this opportunity excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV.

#### F. Contacts

- a. For inquiries about application guidance and instructions contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at:  
[parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386
- b. For scientific/research inquiries contact:  
Anwer Mujeeb, MSc, PhD, Basic Biomedical Program Officer, 510-287-3340, [anwer.mujeeb@ucop.edu](mailto:anwer.mujeeb@ucop.edu)

### 3. Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

#### A. General Overview of Award Mechanism

These awards are intended to support individuals with dissertation or postdoctoral research projects in HIV/AIDS-related basic biomedical sciences, and to foster mentoring activities by established HIV/AIDS researchers.

#### B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

The applicant is the awardee of record, and the faculty mentor serves as the institutional sponsor. The proposal must be conceptualized and written by the applicant in consultation with the mentor. The applicant's mentor must be affiliated with a non-profit research or academic institution in California that has appropriate research and training facilities.

#### C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements

Dissertation Research Fellowships provide a maximum of \$25,000 per year for up to 2 years. Postdoctoral Research Fellowships provide a maximum of \$45,000 per year for up to 2 years, plus up to \$3,000 per year for health benefits. Applicants must be sponsored by an accredited non-profit research or academic institution located in California. Dissertation students must be enrolled in a doctoral program at a California university or research institution, and must have advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree by the award period start date. Postdoctoral fellowship applicants must hold a doctoral level research or professional degree and postdoctoral fellow status at a California institution by the award period start date. Postdoctoral fellowship applicants must commit to the proposed project a minimum of 9 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort. Dissertation awards may be used for stipends, tuition and fees, and dissertation-related supplies and expenses. Postdoctoral fellowships may be used for salary and research expenses. No indirect costs are available for research training awards. Training award applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents (green card holders), or hold a J1, H1-B, or other valid U.S. visa appropriate for study or conducting research. Previous awardees of CHRP training awards may not apply, except that a prior Dissertation Awardee may apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award. Except under special and compelling circumstances, no more than one Dissertation Award or Postdoctoral Fellowship with the same mentor can be recommended for funding in the same award period. Research Training Awards are intended for specific mentor-trainee relationships, and they may not be transferred to other individuals.

#### D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate training award applications for:

- Strength of concept, approach and methods, including the plan for analysis.
- Suitability of the study for research training.

- Relevance to HIV/AIDS.
- Applicant's achievements and potential for a research career.
- Qualifications of the mentor/advisor.
- Suitability of the training environment at the academic institution.
- Attentiveness to the needs of California.

#### E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

The subject matter of all applications must conform to the field definition for biomedical sciences (see above). This opportunity, however, excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV. \*Proposals involving non-HIV/SIV viral models will be considered if there is a compelling relevance to HIV or SIV.

#### F. Contacts

- a. For inquiries about application guidance and instructions contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at:  
[parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386
- b. For scientific/research inquiries contact:  
Anwer Mujeeb, MSc, PhD, Basic Biomedical Program Officer, 510-287-3340, [anwer.mujeeb@ucop.edu](mailto:anwer.mujeeb@ucop.edu)

#### 4. How to Apply and Required Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Research Award applications. LOIs will be evaluated by CRRP for responsiveness to the Call for Applications to ensure that all full applications will qualify to be forwarded for peer review. LOIs will not be reviewed for scientific merit. Specific instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent for [IDEAs](#) and [Training Awards](#) are available from the CRRP web site. *It is important that LOI submissions follow these instructions.* As part of following the instructions, each submission must use the template that is supplied to help applicants meet the requirements and to help insure consistency. A clear, concise, abstract will be critical for the initial selection of qualified peer reviewers. LOIs, limited to 1 page and prepared using the supplied template according to the instructions, must be submitted electronically before 12 noon Pacific Time (3 p.m. Eastern Time), September 4, 2009. Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by e-mail, and will then have access to materials to prepare a full application. LOIs will be approved as they are received; therefore, earlier submission will potentially provide earlier access to the full application materials for approved LOIs.

*NOTE: It is recommended that applicants review the instructions and the LOI submission web pages as soon as possible in order to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the process before the deadline.*

## **2009 CLINICAL SCIENCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. Field Definition**

Clinical research is intended to understand the effects of medical treatments or methods on disease progression, the effects of medical treatments or methods on prevention or the effects of medical treatments or methods on diagnosis in patients. Such research includes therapeutic interventions, preventive vaccines, and testing of new technologies, often in a clinical trial format. Clinical research is research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena linked to medical treatments or methods) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with the study participants. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual.

### **2. Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Awards (IDEAs)**

#### **A. General Overview of Award Mechanism**

These awards support HIV/AIDS-related pilot studies within and across a variety of biomedical, social/behavioral, epidemiological, clinical, health services, policy and prevention research areas. IDEA research awards provide funds for studies that are innovative, creative, intellectually exciting, and show clear promise to yield findings that have a potential for high pay-off within the grant period and that show clear promise to yield findings that could serve as the basis for well-defined future work in a new area of HIV/AIDS research.

#### **B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism**

IDEAs are intended for:

- All non-profit research, academic, and community-based institutions in California.
- New or experienced investigators testing new ideas and/or approaches.
- Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a flexible period up to a maximum of 24 months.
- Researchers may apply for more than one IDEA in one grant cycle, but may only accept one award for that cycle.
- The IDEA Award Mechanism is intended both for investigators with experience in HIV-related disease research, as well as for new investigators who are interested in furthering a career path in HIV/AIDS research. In addition, IDEAs in the clinical sciences must propose research that addresses a topic within either of two targeted themes as described below in section E.

#### **C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements**

- Awards may not exceed a total of \$250,000 in direct costs over the entire proposed project period.

- Indirect costs up to 25% of eligible direct costs are provided to non-University of California institutions.
- The applicant must have principal investigator status at a nonprofit institution in California and must commit to the project a minimum of 1.2 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort.
- Awards are contingent on the availability of funds, and after initial funding, allocations may be adjusted based on performance.

#### D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate IDEA applications for:

Responsiveness: (30% weighting of final scores)

- The extent to which the proposed work meets the field definition of Clinical Sciences (section 1 above).
- The extent to which the proposed research conforms to one of the two targeted themes as designated by the applicant (section E below).

Research Merit: (70% weighting of final score)

- The extent to which the proposed work is pilot in nature.
- Significance and potential for advancing science in HIV/AIDS.
- Innovation in concept, approach, and/or methods.
- Clarity of the research problem.
- Strength and feasibility of the conceptual framework, analytical plan and methodology.
- Potential for the leverage of results to obtain subsequent funding to advance the project beyond the pilot stage.
- Investigator's demonstrated experience or potential (if new investigator) to conduct the proposed research.
- Attentiveness to the needs of California.

Support is limited to aspects of the proposal that are pilot in nature.

#### E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

During this award cycle, funds for IDEA awards in Clinical Sciences target two thematic priorities:

1. *Complications, Co-morbidities and Long Term Outcomes*
2. *Therapeutic Strategies for HIV*

Proposals must address topics in the clinical sciences as defined under section-1 (Field Definition) above. In addition, proposals must address topics within either of these two targeted themes.

1. **Complications, Co-morbidities and Long Term Outcomes**

Research addressing this theme should emphasize innovative, creative and targeted research addressing the clinical aspects, according to the above field definition, of complications, co-morbidities, and long-term treatment outcomes, particularly in a population or populations most adversely and disproportionately affected by the California HIV epidemic. This area includes clinical research on patients undergoing long-term therapy as the California epidemic continues to mature. Long-term clinical aspects of untreated HIV+ persons will also be considered. Questions must address topics that complement, but do not duplicate other funding efforts. Note that this Call for Applications does not offer opportunities in the area of [Research on Systems of Prevention and Care](#).

**2. Therapeutic Strategies for HIV**

Research addressing this theme should emphasize innovative, creative and targeted research addressing clinical aspects, according to the above field definition, of therapeutic strategies for HIV. This thematic area includes novel therapies and outstanding questions on the clinical management of HIV with existing antiretroviral agents, particularly in a population or populations most adversely and disproportionately affected by the California HIV epidemic. Questions must address topics that complement, but do not duplicate other funding efforts. Note that this Call for Applications does not offer opportunities in the area of [Research on Systems of Prevention and Care](#).

**F. Contacts**

- a. For inquiries about application guidance and instructions contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at:  
[parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386
- b. For scientific/research inquiries contact:  
Melissa Sanchez, MA, PhD, Clinical Sciences Program Officer, 510-587-6131, [melissa.sanchez@ucop.edu](mailto:melissa.sanchez@ucop.edu)

**3. How to Apply and Required Letter of Intent**

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Research Award applications. The instructions for the [IDEAs](#) are available from the CHRP web site. *It is important that LOI submissions follow these instructions.* As part of following the instructions, each submission must use the template that is supplied to help applicants meet the requirements and to help insure consistency. A clear, concise, abstract will be critical for the initial selection of qualified peer reviewers. LOIs, limited to 1 page and prepared using the supplied template according to the instructions, must be submitted electronically before 12 noon Pacific Time (3 p.m. Eastern Time), September 4, 2009. Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by e-mail, and will then have access to materials to prepare a full application. LOIs will be approved as they are received; therefore, earlier submission will potentially provide earlier access to the full application materials for approved LOIs.

*NOTE: It is recommended that applicants review the instructions and the LOI submission web pages as soon as possible in order to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the process before the deadline.*

## **2009 SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. Field Definition**

Research proposals in Social and Behavioral Sciences should have a major and explicit focus on understanding of social, structural, cultural or behavioral processes, or on the use of these processes to predict or influence health outcomes or health risk factors. The research may address sociocultural, socioeconomic, and sociodemographic status; biosocial interactions; and/or the various levels of social context from small groups to complex cultural systems and social structures and societal influences. Behavioral research refers to overt actions; underlying psychological processes such as cognition, emotion, temperament, and motivation; and may include biobehavioral interactions. Social and Behavioral research may focus on prevention, care or their intersection. Research findings may have implications for policy, social changes and systems changes.

### **2. Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Awards (IDEAs)**

#### **A. General Overview of Award Mechanism**

IDEA awards during this funding cycle must support HIV/AIDS-related pilot studies within and across a variety of social, structural, cultural, behavioral, or social-epidemiological research areas that specifically address one of two targeted themes specified below (see section E - Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions). IDEA research awards provide funds for studies that are innovative, creative, intellectually exciting, and show clear promise to yield findings that have a potential for high pay-off within the grant period and that show clear promise to yield findings that could serve as the basis for well-defined future work in an emergent area of HIV/AIDS research. The IDEA award mechanism is intended for investigators with experience in HIV-related research, and for new investigators who are interested in furthering a career in HIV/AIDS research. Proposals in the Social and Behavioral Sciences must meet the field definition of Social and Behavioral Sciences (see section 1, Field Definition, above).

#### **B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism**

IDEAs are intended for:

- All non-profit research, academic, and community-based institutions in California.
- New or experienced investigators testing new ideas and/or approaches.
- Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a flexible period up to a maximum of 24 months.
- Researchers may apply for more than one IDEA in one grant cycle, but may only accept one award for that cycle.
- The IDEA Award Mechanism is intended both for investigators with experience in HIV-related disease research, as well as for new investigators who are interested in furthering a career path in HIV/AIDS research.

In addition, IDEAs in the social and behavioral sciences must propose research that addresses a topic within either of two targeted themes as described below in section E.

#### C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements

Awards are up to \$200,000 in direct costs for up to 2 years. These are individual investigator awards. The applicant must have Principal Investigator (PI) status at his/her institution. Eligible institutions must be non-profit charitable, research or educational institutions located in California. Investigators are encouraged to identify opportunities for pre-doctoral or post-doctoral training, particularly if promising students can be engaged in the research in meaningful ways that will help produce a next generation of scientists with skills in one of the two identified thematic areas. The role of the trainee should be clearly delineated in the proposal. The Principal Investigator must commit to the proposed project a minimum of 1.2 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort. Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a flexible period up to a maximum of 24 months. Indirect costs up to 25% of eligible direct costs are provided to non-University of California institutions. Awards are contingent on the availability of funds, and after initial funding, allocations may be adjusted based on performance.

#### D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate IDEA applications for:

1. Responsiveness to Targeted Theme (30% weighting of final score)

*For HIV-Related Disparities in Highly-Impacted, Under-Researched Populations:*

- a. Extent to which research focuses on populations or sub-populations disproportionately impacted by HIV in California and where research on these populations has been inadequate
- b. Extent to which conceptualization, methods and analytic plan will result in advancing understanding of HIV-related disparities in specific populations or sub-populations

*For Research Advancing Theoretical and Methodological Innovation in Social, Structural or Contextual Issues in HIV Prevention and Care:*

- a. Extent to which research focuses on social and contextual perspectives, rather than focusing narrowly or primarily on behavioral, psychological or epidemiological approaches
- b. Extent to which the application's theoretical and methodological innovations will result in advancing understanding of social, structural or contextual issues in HIV prevention and care
- c. Extent to which multi- or cross-disciplinary team extends theoretical and methodological approaches beyond those traditionally applied in HIV/AIDS science

2. Research Merit (70% weighting of final score)
  - a. Significance and potential for advancing science in HIV/AIDS
  - b. Strength of innovation in concept, approach and/or methods
  - c. Strength and feasibility of the conceptual framework, analytical plan and methodology
  - d. Extent of investigator's demonstrated experience or potential (if new investigator) to conduct the proposed research
  - e. Potential to leverage subsequent research or service demonstration funding
  - f. Extent of attentiveness to the HIV prevention and care needs of California

Support is limited to aspects of the proposal that are pilot in nature.

#### E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

During this award cycle, funds for IDEA awards in Social and Behavioral Sciences target two thematic priorities:

1. *HIV-related disparities in highly-impacted, under-researched populations; and*
2. *Research advancing theoretical and methodological innovation in social, structural or contextual issues in HIV prevention and care.*

The proposed research must specifically address one of these two thematic priorities. In both cases, research should be directly relevant to addressing the HIV epidemic in California.

##### **1. HIV-Related Disparities in Highly-Impacted, Under-Researched Populations**

Research addressing this theme should emphasize innovative, creative and targeted research on inequities and disparities related to HIV risk or disease experienced by those populations most highly-impacted by HIV but for whom, or about which, research has been inadequate. Highly impacted groups may be sub-populations where HIV risk or infection is high as compared to the population group as a whole. Proposed research may have a specific focus on questions related to culture and ethnicity, minority populations, underserved populations, health disparities and social/structural barriers to prevention and care, as examples. Disparities and inequities should be specifically related to HIV risk or infection. Proposals should clearly delineate both the innovative contributions required of IDEA awards, as well as the way in which the research will address deficiencies in scientific knowledge about HIV-related disparities in highly-impacted, under-researched populations. Note that this Call for Applications does not offer opportunities in the area of [Research on Systems of Prevention and Care](#).

**2. Research Advancing Theoretical and Methodological Innovation in Social, Structural or Contextual Issues in HIV Prevention and Care**

Research addressing this theme should emphasize theoretical and methodological innovation to advance HIV prevention and care research in relation to social, structural and/or contextual issues. Multi- or cross-disciplinary research is encouraged and proposals that focus narrowly on behavioral, psychological, or epidemiological theoretical models and/or methodological approaches are discouraged. In general, the intent of this thematic priority is to encourage investigators to examine issues of HIV risk, prevention and care from social and contextual perspectives that emphasize the role of social institutions and barriers, or cultural and contextual processes and practices, rather than from individual behavioral change approaches. Research proposed in this thematic area should address issues or populations where the need for innovative approaches to impact the spread of HIV or improve access to care are clearly justified, and where the application of the proposed approaches to the identified problem must be well-substantiated. The primary emphasis is on the theoretical and methodological advances and innovations proposed and their importance to advancing HIV science related to prevention and care. Note that this Call for Applications does not offer opportunities in the area of [Research on Systems of Prevention and Care](#).

**F. Contacts**

- a. For inquiries about application guidance and instructions contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at:  
[parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386
- b. For scientific/research inquiries contact:  
Roy McCandless, DrPH, Social and Behavioral Sciences Program Officer, (510) 287-3359,  
[roy.mccandless@ucop.edu](mailto:roy.mccandless@ucop.edu)

**3. Community Collaborative Research Awards**

**A. General Overview of Award Mechanism**

Community Collaborative Research Awards (CCRA) support community-based, applied research undertaken by academic investigators working in partnership with community based organizations, AIDS service organizations, or local health departments. The awards are intended to encourage research collaboration that addresses important and timely research questions, strengthens research and evaluation infrastructure within service settings, and addresses real-world challenges in research translation and application. To address gaps in research, and to meet the challenges of a changing epidemic and the prevention and care needs of people most impacted by HIV, during this award cycle CHRP invites applications for Community Collaborative research addressing the following thematic

priority: *Practice Informed Translational & Interventions Research*. Proposals in the Social and Behavioral Sciences must meet the field definition of Social and Behavioral Sciences (see section 1, Field Definition, above).

#### B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

Funds for Community Collaborative Research Awards in Social and Behavioral research must target the following specific thematic priority: *Practice Informed Translational & Interventions Research*. This thematic area of research refers to the need for systematic program evaluation of existing prevention interventions that are deployed in community settings. In prevention evaluation research, outcome evaluations alone have proven insufficient for determining what specific intervention components, processes, characteristics, recruitment and retention strategies, staff training levels, and other programmatic infrastructure are critical to intervention effectiveness in real-world settings. Among those interventions already shown to have positive outcomes, it remains unclear in many cases what adaptations and modifications enhance outcomes by effective tailoring to local needs, and what modifications may diminish effectiveness. Addressing these gaps in knowledge is critical for meeting the prevention and service needs of Californians most impacted by HIV. Proposed collaborations must include the scientific guidance of a program evaluator, either as a lead investigator or by subcontract. Community partners must propose evaluation of an existing intervention with the intent to identify systematically and rigorously the program components that support (or diminish) intervention effectiveness among the populations served.

Applications for *Practice Informed Translational & Interventions Research* collaborative awards should propose the programmatic and impact evaluation of a prevention intervention in a community or public health service setting. Ideally, the intervention will be one of the following: 1) an existing community-based prevention program for which systematic evaluation data have not been collected and analyzed; 2) the translation of a research-derived intervention into a real-world setting; or 3) the adaptation of an efficacious intervention to a new setting and target population. In each of these three cases, outcome evaluation of the intervention is expected. However, the intent of this priority theme is to **explicitly emphasize program evaluation in its broadest sense**, and analyses may consider organizational and operational feasibility, cost analyses, client and community impact, acceptability of and satisfaction with the intervention on the part of clients and staff. Similarly, the researcher may seek to document successful program adaptations or components, and evaluate the replicability and sustainability of the intervention outside of a research-supported context. The research proposal must include a comprehensive program evaluation component and the scientific contributions to the research design of a program evaluator (as Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator, or by sub-contract). The comprehensive evaluation plan should emphasize the utilization of innovative evaluation methodologies that have the potential to serve as a “best practices” model for program evaluation of community-based HIV interventions. Utilization of program evaluation methods and approaches developed for other health or social service settings, appropriately adapted to HIV prevention, is encouraged.

Proposals must demonstrate the specific contributions that each collaborative partner will make to the research, the roles and contributions of subcontracting experts or partners, and the plans for developing and sustaining the collaboration and community partner organization's research infrastructure after the research award. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate a training component for pre- or post-doctoral students to participate meaningfully in the research and enhance their capacity to conduct research and program evaluation in community and health service settings. Likewise, the research proposal should include and describe specific opportunities for the community partner to enhance its organizational capacity for evaluation through participation in the research.

The application must demonstrate that the impetus for the research derives from the community partner, that the community partner plays a strong role in framing the research questions, and that the proposed research will answer questions of primary interest to the community partner. Consequently, the community partner should take an active and demonstrable role in submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and the Application, and the community partner must be identified as the lead applicant organization for the purpose of the application. At the same time, the most successful proposals are often those in which the academic partner is actively engaged in formulating the background, theoretical framework and justification, and research plan. Thus, it is not the intent that the application be completed by either partner individually, but rather jointly through shared access to the online application system. Moreover, the collaborators may propose either a single contract or two separate contracts to the lead organizations. CHRP retains the right to make a final determination on whether a single contract or two individual contracts will be awarded for a single project. In no circumstances can more than two agencies receive funding directly from CHRP. All other collaborators must participate through subcontract. An applicant may apply as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than one Community Collaborative Research Award application, but may only serve in such capacity for one CCRA for a given grant cycle.

#### C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements

Awards are up to \$350,000 total in direct costs for up to 3 years. Indirect costs up to 25% of eligible direct costs are provided to non-University of California institutions.

The community partner must provide evidence of experience and/or capacity to serve as the lead institution and must demonstrate the capacity to administer the award. The academic co-principal investigator must have principal investigator status at a non-profit California research institution. Principal investigators from each of the participating organizations must commit to the CHRP project a minimum of 1.8 person-months (15%) of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort. One of the principal or co- investigators, or a member of the research team, must have expertise in evaluation of community, health or social service programs.

If funded, each of the two collaborating partners may elect to separately receive funds from CHRP. If appropriate for the research project, other experts or institution(s) may participate through subcontract(s) from one of the two

collaborating partners. Community partners will be required to submit recent audited financial statements for fiscal review, and final determination of the contracting arrangements will be determined by CHRP after administrative review. Awards are contingent on the availability of funds, and after initial funding, allocations may be adjusted based on performance.

#### D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate Collaborative Research Award applications for:

##### 1. Responsiveness to Targeted Theme (30% weighting of final score)

*For Practice Informed Translational & Interventions Research:*

1. Extent to which the proposal represents one of the following:
  - a. An existing community-based HIV/AIDS prevention program for which systematic evaluation data have not been collected and analyzed.
  - b. The translation of a research-derived intervention into a real-world setting.
  - c. The adaptation of an efficacious intervention into a new setting and target population.
2. Strength of the proposal in addressing at least one of the following research questions:
  - a. What specific intervention components, processes, characteristics, recruitment and retention strategies, staff training levels, and programmatic infrastructure are critical to program effectiveness in real-world settings?
  - b. Among interventions already shown to have positive outcomes, what adaptations and modification to local needs enhance outcomes and what modifications may diminish effectiveness?
3. Extent to which the proposal will contribute to one or more of the following:
  - a. An expanded range of evaluated prevention interventions (either new or adapted) for highly impacted populations.
  - b. An expanded range of innovative and disseminable evaluation methodologies specific to critical prevention intervention research questions.
  - c. Expanded knowledge related to one or both of the overarching research questions specified above.

##### 2. Research Merit (70% weighting of final score)

- a. Significance and potential to advance knowledge and impact practice in HIV/AIDS
- b. Innovativeness of intervention and approach to evaluation
- c. Strength and feasibility of the conceptual framework, analytical plan and methodology
- d. Strength of the collaboration
- e. Strength of the partnering organization's experience and capacity to conduct the project

- f. Strength of investigator's and team's demonstrated experience or potential (if new investigator) to conduct the proposed research, particularly as it relates to background and professional training in program evaluation
- g. Potential to leverage subsequent research or service demonstration funding
- h. Extent of attentiveness to the HIV prevention and care needs of California

#### E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

Community Collaborative Research Awards in this funding cycle are limited to those that address the targeted theme of *Practice Informed Translational & Interventions Research*. Applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) briefly outlining the proposed research and its relevance to the targeted theme.

#### F. Contacts

- a. For inquiries about application guidance and instructions contact the Research Program Application and Review Center (PARC) at:  
[parc@ucop.edu](mailto:parc@ucop.edu) or (510) 987-9386
- b. For scientific/research inquiries contact:  
Roy McCandless, DrPH, Social and Behavioral Sciences Program Officer, (510) 287-3359,  
[roy.mccandless@ucop.edu](mailto:roy.mccandless@ucop.edu)

#### 4. How to Apply and Required Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Research Award applications. Specific instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent for [IDEAs](#) and [Community Collaborative Research Awards](#) are available from the CHRP web site. *It is important that LOI submissions follow these instructions.* Each submission must use the template that is supplied to help applicants meet the requirements. A clear, concise, abstract will be critical for the initial selection of qualified peer reviewers. LOIs, limited to 1 page for IDEAs and 2 pages for Community Collaborative Research Awards, must be prepared using the supplied template according to the instructions and must be submitted electronically before 12 noon Pacific Time (3 p.m. Eastern Time), September 4, 2009. For Community Collaborative Research Awards, the non-academic partner must submit the LOI. Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by e-mail, and will then have access to materials to prepare a full application. LOIs will be approved as they are received; therefore, earlier submission will potentially provide earlier access to the full application materials for approved LOIs. *NOTE: It is recommended that applicants review the instructions and the LOI submission web pages as soon as possible in order to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the process before the deadline.*

