Implementation Science for Ending the HIV Epidemic in California
Call for Applications 2020

Key Dates and Deadlines

April 8, 2020	Call for Applications Released
April 27, 2020	Applicant Webinar
May 20, 2020	Letters of Intent Due
July 22, 2020	Full Applications Due
November 13, 2020	Notification of Peer Review Outcome
February 1, 2021	Award Start Date

Given the evolving COVID-19 situation, timelines may shift. We will communicate any updates via email and on our website.

Award Overview

Owing to decades of groundbreaking research, there is a robust toolkit of interventions documented to improve prevention, testing, and treatment outcomes for HIV. Identifying effective strategies to bring those tools to scale, for sustained and cost-effective impact, is a critical next step. To contribute to this needed evidence base, the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP) aims to award up to $3 million to support HIV implementation science. Implementation science, in this context, refers to the study of strategies to incorporate evidence-based interventions or practices into existing systems of care or community programming. Applications proposing novel HIV prevention and treatment studies or ones operating outside of existing health systems or community programing will not be considered. The goal of these awards is to support research that has the potential for the implementation lessons to be scalable for sustained impact on the HIV epidemic in California. Projects can range from 1 year to 3 years in duration and can have budgets up to $200,000 per year in direct costs. The maximum direct cost budget over the life of the grant cannot exceed $600,000.

Requirements

- Proposals are required to utilize an implementation science approach. The selected implementation science approach/framework should be appropriate for the proposed research and well justified. Research should pull from the substantial evidence-base on effective interventions and approaches to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV, and aim to explore the best methods for scaling and sustaining those interventions in a cost-effective manner across California. Proposals seeking to test new interventions are not permitted.

- Given the size of the awards, applicants are encouraged to focus on only one of the four strategic areas outlined in the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* – Diagnosis, Treat, Prevent, Respond. Proposals must focus on how to incorporate evidence-based interventions or practices into existing systems of care or community programming. Proposals must include collaborations between researchers and health systems/jurisdictions and/or community-based organizations. The local health jurisdictions or community-based organization partners should be involved in the design, conduct, and evaluation of the research.

- Research activities must take place in California counties prioritized by the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco. Applicants will be required to justify the selected location(s) of the proposed research. All applicant institutions and research activities must be located in California.

- Research should focus on addressing the intersection of biological, individual, and structural factors that facilitate HIV transmission or worse treatment and care outcomes. Therefore, research should focus on populations with elevated risk for HIV exposure, lower uptake or continuation of prevention tools like PrEP, or worse treatment outcomes (e.g., Black/African Americans, Latinx individuals, transgender individuals, young men who have sex with men, or other populations that can be strongly justified by the applicant). Proposals focused on the overlapping risks of HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis C are of particular interest.

Eligibility

Principal Investigators from non-profit research, academic, or community-based institutions located in California are eligible to apply. Principal Investigators must commit at least 1.2 person-months (10% FTE) effort per year to the project. Current recipients of CHRP research funding are eligible to apply for funding under this initiative. US citizenship is not a requirement.

Investigators may submit only one application as principal investigator to this Call for Applications; failure to comply with this requirement will result in the rejection of all of their applications before review. Multiple principal investigators (Co-PI) are not allowed under this mechanism. It is allowable for a principal investigator on one application to serve in a different role on additional applications. Individuals, community-based organizations, and health systems/jurisdictions may participate in more than one application under this mechanism.

Applicants who do not yet hold "principal investigator" status at their institution may apply for this funding mechanism as a principal investigator if they include assurance from their institution that such status would be granted if the application were selected for funding.

In accordance with **UC policy**, principal investigators who are UC employees and who receive any part of their salary through UC must submit grant proposals through their UC campus Contracts and Grants office. Exceptions must be approved by the UC campus where the principal investigator is employed.

Budget

Award budgets for this mechanism cannot exceed $200,000 (direct costs) per year for up to 3 years ($600,000 total direct costs). Proposal budgets may include direct costs to support the proposed research activities only. Institutions are eligible for additional indirect costs of up to 30% of total eligible direct project costs or at the rate established for the institution through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (or another similarly established rate), whichever is lower. Both University of California (UC) and non-UC institutions are eligible for indirect costs.

Although this mechanism requires a partnership between the submitting institution and local health jurisdictions or community-based organizations, if awarded, only the submitting institution will be funded directly by CHRP. All other collaborating institutions will be sub-awards on the primary award.

How to Apply

A **Letter of Intent (LOI)** will be required for all applications. The LOI will be reviewed by CHRP staff for responsiveness to the Call for Applications and satisfaction of all eligibility criteria.
LOI submissions will be required to include:
- Proposal title
- Total estimated budget and requested award term
- An abstract summarizing the proposed research, including HIV priority area, population, and county of focus, as well as collaborating institutions (2400 characters max);
- Specific aims of the research (2400 characters max)
- A response to the following prompt: Briefly describe the implementation science approach, including which model/framework, the research will utilize (1300 characters max)

LOIs will be due by **May 20, 2020**. Applicants with an approved LOI will be notified via SmartSimple by May 22, 2020 and gain access to the full application materials. No application may move forward without an approved LOI. Applications will be due on **July 22, 2020** by noon, Pacific Time.

Applicants are responsible for following the policies, procedures, and timelines required by their institutions and for confirming that any collaborators have secured institutional approval, if required, in advance of application submission.

Use SmartSimple (ucop.smartsimple.com) to submit your LOI and application. Instructions on how to use SmartSimple are available in a separate document, accessible online here: [SmartSimple Submission Instructions](#)

Prospective Applicant Webinar

CHRP will hold a webinar on **April 27, 2020** to provide an overview of the intent of the award and the application process. The webinar will also allow prospective applicants the opportunity to ask questions about the application and review process. Information on how to access the applicant webinar and the

exact timing of the webinar will be posted on the CHRP website:
http://www.californiaaidsresearch.org/funding-opportunities/index.html.

Application Review Criteria

All submitted full applications will undergo a peer review. The criteria to assess the merit of applications will be:

Methods and Research Plan (50% scoring weight): Does the proposal utilize an appropriate implementation science approach/framework for the study? How robust and feasible are the proposed methods and timeline? Will the research take place in one of the priority California counties (i.e., Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco), and is that prioritization well justified? Does the outlined dissemination plan allow multiple stakeholders to learn from the outcomes and key lessons of the study?

Impact (20% scoring weight): Does the proposal focus on populations with documented disparities in HIV incidence or treatment outcomes, and is that focus well justified? Does the research address a critical gap in ending the HIV epidemic in California? Will the proposed research have the potential to be sustainable and scalable once the study period ends?

Collaboration (15% of scoring weight): Does the proposal demonstrate that local health jurisdictions/health systems or community-based organization partners will be integral members in the design, conduct, and evaluation of the research? Does the proposed collaboration strengthen the research plan?

Expertise and Capacity (15% scoring weight): Are the researchers appropriately trained and suited to conduct the study? Does the research team bring complementary and integrated expertise, with strong potential for successful collaboration? Is there sufficient evidence that the participating institutions can conduct the research and administer the award? Does the study environment contribute to the probability of success?

Other considerations: Reviewers will evaluate but not score the following items:
- Budget: Appropriateness of the budget request for the project.
- Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk: If human subjects are involved, protections from research risk relating to their participation in the proposed research will be assessed.
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children in Research: If human subjects are involved, the adequacy of plans to include subjects of all genders, all racial and ethnic groups (and subgroups) and children as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research will be assessed. Plans for the recruitment and retention of human subjects will be evaluated.

Stipulations

Funding: Awards are contingent upon availability of funding, as well as compliance with all research and reporting requirements. Grantees will be subject to funding renewal on an annual basis. The number of awards made will depend on the number and quality of applications received.

Human or animal subjects: Approvals or exemptions for the use of human or animal subjects are not required before the time of LOI submission or review, but will be required before any funded work commences. Principal Investigators are encouraged to apply to the appropriate board or committee as soon as possible after submitting an application to expedite the start of the project.

Grants management procedures and policies: Details concerning the requirements for grant recipients are available in the "RGPO Grant Administration Manual." The latest version of the Manual is accessible online at: https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/grant-administration/index.html

Appeals of review decisions: Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the CHRP Director, and are subject to oversight from the CHRP Advisory Council and the Research Grants Program Office. Decisions may not be appealed, but declined proposals may be submitted to future funding competitions without prejudice.

Open Access

Recipients of all CHRP grant awards are required to make all resulting research findings publicly available in accordance with the terms of the Open Access Policy of the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) of the University of California, Office of the President (UCOP), effective April 22, 2014.

RGPO Open Access Policy: The UCOP Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) is committed to disseminating research as widely as possible to promote the public benefit. To that end, all RGPO grantee institutions and researchers grant RGPO a nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright and in any medium for all scholarly articles and similar works generated as a result of an RGPO grant award, and agree to authorize others to do the same, for the purpose of making their articles widely and freely available in an open access repository. This policy does not transfer copyright ownership, which remains with the author(s) or copyright owners.

Scope and Waiver (Opt-Out): The policy applies to all scholarly articles and similar works authored or coauthored as a result of research sponsored by an RGPO grant, except for any articles published before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the grantee institution and/or researchers entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. Upon express written request of the institutional grantee and/or researcher, RGPO will waive the license for a particular article or delay "open access" to the article for a specified period of time.

Deposit of Articles: To assist the RGPO in disseminating and archiving the articles, the grantee institution and all researchers to the grant award will commit to helping the RGPO to obtain copies of the articles

that are published as a result of an RGPO sponsored grant award. Specifically, each author will provide an electronic copy of his or her final version of the article to the RGPO by the date of its publication for inclusion in an open access repository, subject to any applicable waiver or delay referenced above. Notwithstanding the above, this policy does not in any way prescribe or limit the venue of publication.

Contact Information

For general questions regarding the electronic submission of an LOI or application, please contact our Contracts and Grants personnel at either RGPOGrants@ucop.edu or 510-987-9386.

For questions regarding the suitability or content of an application, please contact Tyler Martz (Tyler.Martz@ucop.edu), the Program Officer for these awards.