

**Call for Proposals:
Health Disparities Research Pilot Grants
Deadline November 1, 2006**

**Supported by The Department of Medicine\
University of Chicago**

Summary: Health Disparities Research Pilot Grants up to \$40,000 are available for University of Chicago faculty and Research Associates. Applications are due November 1, 2006.

Goals of Program: The goals of this program are to facilitate interdisciplinary health disparities research at the University of Chicago and the creation of a community of scholars and partners eliminating racial and socioeconomic disparities in health.

Background: Racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health care and health outcomes are an unacceptable problem in the United States. Numerous studies document disparities in care and much is known about the underlying mechanisms. The most pressing need is understanding what interventions work to reduce disparities.

In 2005, the University of Chicago became the National Program Office for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change Program (www.solvingdisparities.org). Finding Answers is awarding national grants to evaluate interventions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, systematically reviewing the literature to understand what works for narrowing disparities, and disseminating findings.

To support the mission of Finding Answers in reducing disparities, Chairman of Medicine and Lowell T. Coggeshall Professor of Medicine Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, MD, has provided funding for pilot grants in health disparities research at the University of Chicago and to develop an infrastructure and community of disparities researchers.

Grants and Grant Cycles: One year pilot grants in the \$5,000 to \$40,000 range with maximum amount depending on the following:

- \$10,000 maximum - Study Team solely within 1 Department or 1 School (in Schools where Departments do not exist) at The University of Chicago
- \$25,000 maximum – Study Team spans 2 or more Departments or Schools at The University of Chicago
- \$40,000 maximum – Study Team spans 2 or more Departments or Schools at The University of Chicago and also includes partnership with community organization(s)

We anticipate offering approximately 2 grant cycles per year for the next 2-3 years. The number of grants funded per cycle will depend upon the quality and quantity of applications. Funding cannot be used to support investigators' salaries.

Principal Investigator Eligibility: The principal investigator must be a University of Chicago faculty member or Research Associate. Investigators may come from any part of the university.

Funding Priorities: This program will support research investigating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health care. Strong preference will be given to research projects that aim to reduce disparities, research projects that are likely to lead to more external funding, and research projects that bring together different parts of the University and/or community.

Funding priorities include:

- 1) Intervention research
- 2) Interdisciplinary research involving investigators across multiple University of Chicago Schools, Departments, and Sections
- 3) Research involving partnerships with community organizations
- 4) Pilot work that will lead to larger projects and additional funding streams
- 5) Research projects that will build and enhance a community of investigators and partners at the University of Chicago focused on reducing disparities

Application Components (single spaced, 12 point font):

- 1) Abstract – 1 page max.
- 2) Research plan – 5 page max. Include:
 - a) Specific Aims
 - b) Background
 - c) Preliminary Studies, if applicable
 - d) Research Design and Analytical Plan
 - e) Anticipated Challenges for the Project and Proposed Solutions
 - f) Institutional Review Board Status
 - g) Anticipated Future Work and Grant Applications
 - h) How You Will Contribute To the Wider Community of Disparities Researchers at The University of Chicago
- 3) Budget - Place budget items into the following categories: Personnel (e.g. – Research Assistant), Equipment, Supplies, Travel, Other Expenses
- 4) Budget Justification – Justify each budget item. Also, if the project requires additional funds to be completed, indicate the source and amount of the other funding.
- 5) NIH Biosketches for Key Personnel

Blank form: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>

Example: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc>
- 6) Letters of support from partners and collaborators, if applicable

Please email application materials to Mr. Alden Chang
(achang1@bsd.uchicago.edu) by November 1, 2006 5:00 p.m.
Funded grants will start January 1, 2007.

Logistical questions: Contact Mr. Alden Chang, Center for Health and the Social Sciences (achang1@bsd.uchicago.edu; 773-702-5040).

Programmatic questions: Contact either Scott Cook, PhD, Deputy Director, Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change (scook1@bsd.uchicago.edu; 773-702-2864), or Marshall Chin, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director, Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change (mchin@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu; 773-702-4769).