

**Call for Proposals:  
Campus and Community Health Disparities  
Pilot Research Grants Program**

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

**Optional Notice of Intent**

April 16, 2007

**Application Deadline**

May 14, 2007

**Award Notification**

Week of June 25, 2007

**Grants Begin**

August 1, 2007.

**Summary:** Campus and Community Health Disparities Pilot Research Grants up to \$25,000 are available for University of Chicago faculty and PI eligible candidates. Please refer to the URA website for a listing of PI eligibility criteria. Applications are due May 14, 2007.

**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](http://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 \$25,000 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
- \$17,500 maximum – Study Team spans 2 or more Departments or Schools at The University of Chicago
- \$25,000 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 Technician. 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
- 6) Investigators likely to continue doing disparities research.

Description of application requirements begins on next page.

**Application Components (single spaced, 12 point font; begin each numbered component on a new page):**

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
    - i. Include specific start and end dates. The earliest possible start date is August 1, 2007.
  - 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
  - i. Your Long-term Commitment to the Disparities Research Field
3. Budget – Project length cannot exceed 1 year. Create one budget that places items into the following categories. Each category should have a subtotal in your budget. Each category can have multiple line-items. If your project has additional funds from other funding sources, please create a second column and use that column to indicate the amount of the additional funding for each line-item. For example, if you have \$2,000 from outside funding that covers 100% of the cost for participant stipends, please add participant stipends as a line-item with \$0 in the column for the proposed budget and \$2,000 in the second column for other sources of funding. Using this example, if the outside funding covers 50% of the \$2,000 cost for participant stipends, please put \$1,000 in the column for the proposed budget and \$1,000 in the column for outside funding.
  - a. Personnel (e.g. – Research Assistant)
    - i. Each personnel position must have its own line-item in this category. For example, if you have three personnel positions, please include three line-items (one for each position).
    - ii. Indicate the base salary or pay-rate for each position.
    - iii. Indicate the percent effort for each position on this project (e.g., .50 FTE)
    - iv. Indicate benefits eligibility or ineligibility for each position.
    - v. As a separate line-item, indicate fringe costs for all personnel (22.6% fringe rate for benefits-eligible personnel and a 7.8% fringe rate for benefits-ineligible personnel). Include fringe as part of total costs.
    - vi. Do not forget to include anticipated salary increases that may be implemented July 1, 2008.
  - b. Equipment
  - c. Supplies
  - d. Travel
  - e. Other Expenses

4. Budget Justification
  - a. Justify each budget line-item.
    - i. If a line-item contains funds from other funding sources, indicate the sources of additional funding. See Section 3 (Budget - above) for more details.
5. NIH Biosketches for Key Personnel
  - a. Blank form: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>
    - i. Example: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc>
6. Letters of support from partners and collaborators, if applicable
7. Key Contact Information (will be used for all program communication)
  - a. First Name, Last Name
  - b. Email Address
  - c. Full Postal Address
  - d. Telephone

#### **Notice of Intent**

To facilitate the processing of pilot grant applications, we would appreciate you providing a "Notice of Intent" via email by Monday, April 16, 2007. Please direct your email to [crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu), include "Notice of Intent-Health Disparities" in the subject line and provide the following in the message body, 1) PI name, 2) Working title of project, 3) 2-3 sentence description of the proposed project, and 4) list of potential key personnel. Please understand that providing this notice is not required, only appreciated. You may withdraw an application after submitting your notice of intent and you may submit without a notice of intent.

#### **Application**

**Please email application materials to Ms. Chesaree Rollins ([crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu)) by 5:00 p.m., May 14, 2007.**

**Logistical questions:** Contact Ms. Chesaree Rollins, Center for Health and the Social Sciences ([crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:crollins@bsd.uchicago.edu); 773-702-6751).

**Programmatic questions:** Contact Scott Cook, PhD, Deputy Director, Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change ([scook1@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mchin@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu); 773-702-4769).