

## **Children’s Development and Health Research**

### **Investigator-Initiated Research Projects**

The purpose of Children’s Development and Health grants is to facilitate research and speed the process of translation of evidence-based strategies for preventing and reducing the downstream effects of adverse childhood experiences. This component of the program focuses on supporting research to increase our understanding of the role of early childhood experiences on behavior and health later in life and to determine best practices to prevent negative experiences and promote healthy environments for childhood development.

Recent research in Iowa has stressed the lifelong impact that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) like neglect, abuse, and exposure to other traumatic stressors like substance abuse, divorce, criminal behavior, etc. can have on children and youth. These negative experiences can disrupt healthy neurological development and can lead to certain behavioral and physical health problems later in life. However, through prevention and response strategies, communities can take efforts to reduce young children’s exposure to extremely stressful conditions and to build protective factors and increase children’s resiliency to their harmful effects. More research is needed to understand the effect these negative experiences can have on healthy development, to build an evidence-base of effective methods for identifying and treating children exposed to ACEs, and to determine strategies for the implementation of best practices in different settings and with different target populations.

The research project must have a “real-world translation” and investigators should understand how findings from the project could ultimately have an impact on communities in Iowa. Efforts to link investigators with state agencies, community organizations, or health providers working to address ACEs will be provided upon request.

Funded projects should:

1. Have the potential to significantly impact individual and population health in a concrete and tangible way
2. Hold the promise of developing into long-term research projects that will leverage additional funds and create a high return on investment
3. Demonstrate the development of solid and sustainable relationships between the community and university
4. Include a letter of endorsement from a community organization or state agency indicating their support and involvement in the research

***A letter of interest is recommended and can be submitted prior to proposal submission. Proposals are due June 1, 2015.***

### **Award**

Funding up to \$25,000 is available to support research activities, including data collection and analysis, recruitment and compensation of study participants, and dissemination of study results. Funded projects must be completed within 12 months of award.

### **Proposal Information**

Projects should address issues that have a significant health impact on individuals or populations.

Successful applicants will:

1. Clearly state the significance and impact of the selected issue on the health of individuals and populations.
2. Detail specific goals, strategies, and methods that will be used to address the chosen issue.
3. Propose a realistic timeline for their project.
4. Propose appropriate data collection methods and analysis of quantitative and qualitative measures.
5. Outline a plan for disseminating research findings and continuing the research beyond the pilot grant phase, including seeking external funding (i.e. NIH, HRSA, CDC, AHRQ, or national/local foundations.)

### **Letter of Interest**

Interested applicants can submit a letter of interest (LOI) for this funding opportunity.

Letters of interest will be reviewed and feedback will be provided. In addition, this process will allow ICTS staff to assist in identifying appropriate research partners if requested.

The letter of interest, not to exceed one page single spaced, should address most of the following:

1. Project title and contact information: UI PI name, title, department, email, phone number
2. What health issue or priority does this project propose to address?
3. What is the significance and relevance of the health issue to communities in Iowa?
4. A brief description of research goals and plan, including project design and study population.
5. Request for assistance in identifying community partners for input on research project.

Submission: Submit your letter of interest, with a request for partner matching if needed, to Liz Swanton: [elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu](mailto:elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu).

### **Full Proposal Content**

Full proposals are due by June 1, 2015 by 5:00 pm (CDT), via email. The full proposal should address the following points:

1. **Face Page:** Project Title, UI PI name, title, department and contact information; other key personnel
2. **Abstract:** Provide a concise description of the proposed research (500 words maximum). You must include:

- a. The importance and scope of the health issue to be addressed
  - b. The specific research question(s), including aims and objectives
  - c. A brief summary of your project design
  - d. The potential impact of your research on improving the health of lowans
3. **Narrative:** Addressing the following areas (five page limit, single spaced, upload PDF document):
- a. *Specific aims:* What is your research question? If applicable, what are the hypotheses? Please include clear, measurable objectives.
  - b. *Background and significance:* What important health issue will be addressed? What gap in knowledge will your project address? Please describe any relevant experience you have in understanding or studying the proposed health issue. Describe the intended impact of your project.
  - c. *Community:* Who in the community will benefit from the results of your project? How will anticipated results of your project help to improve the health of people in communities? How will you involve community stakeholders and others affected by your project in the design and execution of the project and the dissemination of research findings?
  - d. *Partnership:* Describe any community partners and their roles on the project. Why each member was chosen to be on this project?
  - e. *Project design and methods:* How do you propose to conduct the project? What methods do you propose to use? What are the endpoints or processes being measured? How will data be collected and analyzed? Describe study participant recruitment if applicable. Address any relevant human subject protection issues and potential risk to study participants, including plan for IRB submission.
  - f. *Next steps:* How do you intend to disseminate your pilot project findings? What are your plans to continue this line of research, including plans for securing additional funding? How will the results of this study be used to continue this line of research or evaluation? How will community efforts and benefits on this project be sustained?
  - g. *Literature cited:* Not included in 5-page limit.
4. **Timeline:** The project must be completed within 12 months of the start date. Show tasks to be completed during each quarter on the online form. The timeline is not included in the narrative page limit.
5. **Bio sketches, resumes, or CVs** for key personnel (limit to one document of no more than 4 pages for each person; upload as PDF document)
6. **Budget:** Please include a budget and budget justification. The budget should outline all costs needed to complete the pilot project. Funding requests between \$25,000 and \$65,000 in direct costs will be considered. Pilot funds may be requested for a variety of expenses related to planning and implementing pilot research projects (i.e. personnel, meeting expenses, data collection and analysis, evaluation, or consultation.) Indirect costs may not be included in the proposed budget but all justifiable expenses related to the project can be listed in the line item budget.

### **Review and Award Notice**

Completed full proposals will be reviewed by a joint University of Iowa-Community Review process using the following criteria:

- **Impact:** Does the project address a health issue of significance and relevance to a community in Iowa, particularly one that is currently underserved? Does the project have a clear and focused research question with aim(s), hypotheses and measurable objectives? Will the health of the population be improved if project aims are achieved? Will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved if project aims are achieved? Will concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field be improved if project aims are achieved?
- **Investigators:** Does the project have adequate personnel (that is well balanced between the community and the university) to carry out the proposed project? Do the community and university collaborators have appropriate training and/or experience to carry out this project? Do they have complementary and integrated expertise appropriate for the project?
- **Innovation:** Does the proposal challenge and seek to improve current research or practice paradigms by utilizing concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions that reflect a novel approach to improving community health? Do the PIs propose novel approaches to integrate community perspectives into the project?
- **Approach:** Is the overall strategy well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are the resources requested appropriate and adequate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are the methodology and analyses sound? Is there a descriptive plan for how the results of this project will be disseminated, translated and used to benefit the health of community populations? Does this pilot project show the potential to lead to a longer-term research or evaluation project, including additional funding, which will ultimately lead to advances/best practices that contribute to health improvements in the community?

### **Deadlines**

Letter of Interest: prior to proposal submission (Recommended)

Proposal: June 1, 2015

Notice of Award: June 22, 2015

Funding Period: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

All proposals should be sent to [elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu](mailto:elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu)

### **Questions**

Please direct questions to [elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu](mailto:elizabeth-swanton@uiowa.edu).