

Special Call: Cancer Health Disparities Pilot Grants

Release Date: June 13, 2014

Application Deadline: July 28, 2014

The Carolina Community Network Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CCN II) welcomes NIH-defined new or early-stage researchers to apply for small-scale, time-limited pilot research grants that address cancer health disparities. The mission of the Carolina Community Network Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CCN II) is to reduce breast, prostate and colorectal cancers among African American adults in North Carolina by leveraging long-standing university-community relationships. Pilot projects should be completed within 12 months and have the potential to lead to a larger federal or foundation grant application. Projects that utilize some of the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) are encouraged. For more information on CCN II, please visit: www.carolinacommunitynetwork.org

Eligibility:

The Principal Investigators (PI) must be a new or early-stage investigator as defined by the National Institutes of Health and be on faculty or in a post-doctoral research position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more information on NIH's definition of a new or early stage investigator, please visit:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/investigator_policies_faqs.htm

Application Requirements:

1. Research must be of relevance to North Carolina. However, projects that involve at least one of the CCN II targeted counties: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Edgecombe, Guilford, Halifax, Montgomery, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Randolph, Rockingham, and Wilson will be given priority consideration.
2. The Pilot Project Lead must have an identified mentor who will provide guidance and relevant scientific expertise throughout the pilot project period. Post-doctoral fellows must have a senior UNC faculty researcher as their primary mentor.
3. The proposed project must address breast, prostate and/or colorectal cancer disparities among the adult African American population at any point(s) along the cancer care continuum. Projects that address multiple chronic conditions in conjunction with cancer as well as biospecimen collection are also eligible. Proposals that utilize community-based participatory research approaches are encouraged.

Budget Guidelines:

CCN II anticipates awarding up to 2 pilot grants, each with a maximum budget of \$20,000. All projects must be completed within 12 months (award period: 9/1/2014 – 8/31/2015). All funded

projects are required to receive IRB approval within 3 months of the notice of award date or risk the funding decision being rescinded.

Award funds may be used for data collection, mailing of surveys, analyses of any type, research staff support, participant/community incentives or for other resources necessary to complete the project. Funding can be used to support the research of a partnering community-based organization(s) and should be reflected in the submitted budget. Award funds **may not** be used to pay for university overhead, clinical patient care, computer hardware, food, or investigator travel to conferences or meetings. In addition, funds **may not** be used to support the salary of the principal investigator.

Guidelines for Proposal:

The proposal should be completed using the application template that includes the components listed below using a minimum of 1 inch margins and a font size and type of at least 11-point Arial. The proposal should not exceed 5 pages.

Application Components:

- Cover Page (not included in 5 page limit): The cover page should include the project's title, name and contact information for Pilot Project Lead, contact information for department's business manager, the name, date, and signature of the department chairperson.
- Abstract (250 word limit, not included in 5 page limit)
- Specific Aims (not to exceed 1-page)
- Research Plan (maximum of 4 double-spaced pages)
 - Background and Significance
 - Research Design and Methods
 - Study population
 - Discuss the integration of the community based participatory research approach into the project.
 - Data collection and measurement
 - Detailed analysis plan
 - Anticipated Outcomes and Timeline
 - Impact Statement (*i.e. relevance to reducing cancer health disparities and the career trajectory of the investigator, etc.*)
- Statement on Human Subjects*
- Budget and Justification
- Pilot Project PI - 2-page NIH biosketch
- UNC Research Mentor - 2-page NIH biosketch and letter of support

**NOTE: While IRB approval for new projects is not required at the time of submission, a copy of the IRB approval notice must be provided to CCN II Administration within 90 days of the funding notice. No funds will be released until we have the IRB approval notice.*

Review Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on scientific merit. It is the researcher's responsibility to present the proposal in a clear and logical fashion, to make a convincing case for the significance of the work and to present sufficient detail about the research plans so that an adequate evaluation of the proposal can be made.

Included in the consideration of merit are:

- 1) Relevance of the proposed study to CCN II and racial/ethnic cancer health disparities;
- 2) Significance of the work;
- 3) Soundness of the proposed methods;
- 4) Ability to partner with or involve a community-based organization or group in a mutually beneficial way;
- 5) Feasibility of accomplishing the stated goals of the project within a 12 month study period;
- 6) Potential for contributing to or fostering further research in the area; and
- 7) Potential for leading to additional external funding

Funded Investigator Responsibilities:

The CCN II Administrative Core will manage the review and administration of all pilot grant applications. Pilot award recipients will be required to (a) obtain IRB approval prior to the conduct of the research and release of funds by submitting a copy of the approval to CCN II, (b) conduct the research as proposed and further directed by the reviewers' comments, (c) manage their project budget and expend the grant funds in accordance with budget guidelines, (d) submit interim and final progress reports as directed, (e) acknowledge the source of pilot grant funding on all related manuscripts and presentations; (f) be willing to present funded research at a CCN II-sponsored event; and (g) become a member of the CCN II Training Program. For more information on the Training Program, please visit:

www.carolinacommunitynetwork.org

Important Dates:

Application deadline: July 28, 2014

Notification of award: August 2014

Anticipated start date: September 1, 2014

Anticipated end date: August 31, 2015

Applications should be emailed as a single pdf file by **5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2014** to Brandolyn White at bswhite@email.unc.edu. Please use the application accompanying this RFA. For questions regarding this pilot RFA, please contact Brandolyn White at bswhite@email.unc.edu or (919) 843-2755.

For questions about the CBPR process or potential community partners, please contact Veronica Carlisle, community health educator at veronica_carlisle@med.unc.edu or (919) 966-1082.

As a useful resource, Campus-Community Partnerships for Health has developed an online CBPR curriculum, *Developing and Sustaining CBPR Partnerships*, which includes an outline of CBPR key principles among a wealth of other useful information. The curriculum can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/cbpr/index.php>

This pilot award program is supported by the National Cancer Institute Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities through its Community Networks Program Centers, U54CA153602.