I. PURPOSE. The primary objective of this call for applications is to support the development of innovative research in nutrition and obesity at NCCU. This award cycle is specifically designed for researchers from underrepresented minority (URM) backgrounds at NCCU to collect preliminary data that supports a grant application for independent research support and published work.

II. PROJECT CRITERIA. UNC NORC Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) Program projects may be biomedical, epidemiological, or clinical. They may include laboratory or non-laboratory research projects that focus either on human nutrition, animal work that could be translated to human nutrition, or basic research related to nutrition or obesity. Human nutrition or human obesity projects may focus on inpatient or outpatient studies or on epidemiological or community-based research that is social or behavioral in nature. To support their P&F projects, investigators are strongly encouraged to use one or more of the services offered by the four UNC NORC cores found here: https://sph.unc.edu/norc/cores/.

Applications will be considered for all areas of nutrition and/or obesity research with an emphasis on the following interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems in nutrition/obesity research:

- Basic Science and Fundamentals of Nutrition and Metabolism
- Nutrition and Chronic Diseases in Populations
- Precision Nutrition: Metabolic Responses, Metabolic Variation, and Requirements for Nutrients
- Understanding and Changing Diet- and Obesity-Related Behavior

III. FUNDING. The UNC NORC will award one grant of $50,000 in direct costs. The award must be spent within one year of the project’s start date. The project’s start date must be within three months of notice of award. Funds will be awarded and made available as early as late March 2021. No carryforward is allowed past the project end date. P&F funding is not intended to extend projects for which it would be appropriate to submit an NIH grant application. Funds are not intended to support or supplement ongoing research projects. All expenses must conform to the general policies of NCCU and the UNC NORC. Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval is required before funds will be released. 75% of funds will be released upon completion of IRB and/or IACUC approvals; the remaining 25% of funds will be released after completion of a six-month progress report. The awardee will be expected to meet with their UNC mentor and the UNC NORC P&F Program Co-Directors at months 3, 6, and 9 (at a minimum).

IV. CAREER DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. In addition to pilot funding, the UNC NORC will provide:

- Biostatistical support through to ensure the rigor and reproducibility of the proposed P&F project
- Expert grant management support, including assistance the coordination of all study activities
- Access to UNC Chapel Hill Libraries, including the Health Sciences Library
- Grant writing training through one-on-one mentoring and workshops
- Mentoring from experts in the awardee’s research area to provide guidance for the funded project, to enhance the awardee’s alliances at both institutions, and to expand networking opportunities
- Career development training through mentoring and training opportunities
- Opportunities for peer mentoring, including professional development workshops
V. ELIGIBILITY. Faculty members or senior postdoctoral scholars at North Carolina Central University who fall into one of the following three categories are eligible to apply:

1. Applicants must be new investigators without current or past NIH research support (R01, P01 or R24) as a PD/PI. Current or past K01 awards are acceptable. OR
2. Applicants must be established, funded investigators with no previous work in nutritional sciences and/or obesity and who wish to test the applicability of their expertise to a nutritional science and/or obesity-related problem. OR
3. Applicants must be established investigators in nutrition/obesity research who propose testing innovative ideas that represent a clear departure from their ongoing research interests.

VI. PRE-PROPOSALS. Interested applicants must first submit a pre-proposal application and an NIH biosketch by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Submit your biosketch as a PDF and complete the online pre-proposal application here. Applicants are encouraged to identify a mentor at UNC in advance of preparing the pre-proposal application. The UNC NORC Internal Advisory Committee will evaluate the pre-proposal applications and notify applicants no later than Wednesday, December 16. Selected investigators will be invited to submit a full proposal for final consideration by 5:00 PM on Monday, February 15, 2021.

### P&F FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR:
- Animal maintenance
- Laboratory/research expenses
- PI salary support up to $10,000
- Publication fees
- Research equipment (less than $5,000)
- Research supplies and materials
- Technical/research staff support
- Other expenses deemed necessary to successfully execute the proposed project (other than those below)

### P&F FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED FOR:
- Computer purchases
- Domestic or foreign travel
- Dues/membership fees
- General office supplies and equipment
- Indirect costs
- Laboratory space rental
- PI salary support over $10,000
- Professional education/training
- Research equipment over $5,000
- Secretarial/administrative salary support
- Tuition

VII. CONTACT. For questions about the application process, please contact Dr. John Easterbrook, Managing Director of the UNC NORC. For science-related questions, please contact Dr. Raz Shaikh, Co-Director of the UNC NORC P&F Program. Learn more about the UNC NORC P&F Program at https://go.unc.edu/norcpilot.