Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Awards

Application Instructions

Co-Sponsored by:
The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
Department of Epidemiology
Department of Sociomedical Sciences
The NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan
The Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center

2020 - 2021

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Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Awards

A collaboration between the Columbia Mailman School's Departments of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences, the NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan, the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center

Overview and Intent

The Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Awards Program is a key capacity building opportunity to stimulate the development and testing of:

1. innovative population health or medical/clinical interventions
2. implementation of evidence-based population health or medical/clinical interventions that have been shown to work, but have not been widely adopted, implemented or sustained in diverse and real-world global, community, clinical/health systems or policy settings.

Please note: Preference will be given to pilot proposals that focus explicitly on health equity and/or racial justice.

Epidemiologic, social sciences, population health, environmental health and clinical sciences have a long history as a force for positive change, intervening to prevent and treat disease, identifying solutions to difficult community-level problems, and scaling-up these solutions to protect and improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of whole populations. While study of the distribution and determinants of health is vital, it is incumbent upon public health science and clinical medical practice to equally elevate and promote the discovery of new knowledge to innovatively intervene on health, produce new actions that improve and promote health, and determine the best ways to disseminate, implement, scale-up, and sustain these actions to offer population and clinical benefits beyond the laboratory or any one community. This focus is particularly critical in light of striking and persistent health inequities across a range of health outcomes.

This program offers early resources for pilot, proof-of-concept projects to be conducted "in miniature", ultimately leading to larger intervention or implementation science projects and producing new knowledge that directly impacts population health, supported by larger extramural funds.

Pilot Award Details

- Duration: One year
- Award amount: $25,000 – $30,000
- Number of awards: Up to 3-5, depending on funding availability

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be full-time faculty at the rank of assistant professor or higher from one of the schools or institutes across Columbia University Irving Medical Center. However, Associate Research Scientists and postdocs may apply with an exceptionally strong letter of support from mentor and department chair. The letter must include pledge that applicant is in line for full-time faculty position as assistant professor within 12 months of award start date. Only 1 application per round per PI permitted.

   Applicants whose primary appointment is from the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. are eligible to apply as PI or member of investigative team.

2. Applications should test interventions or apply implementation science strategies. This includes community and population health strategies (e.g. housing, built environment, land, water, food, climate, information technology, transportation, poverty, etc.), clinical strategies (e.g. cancer care, clinics, hospitals, healthcare systems), psychosocial and behavioral strategies, and potentially other

approaches. Preference will be given to pilot proposals that focus explicitly on health equity and/or racial justice.

3. Pilot studies including primary data collection, mixed methods (integrated qualitative + quantitative approaches), use of mobile health technology, and/or analysis of biosamples are encouraged; collaboration with other disciplines and/or experienced intervention/implementation scientists is highly recommended.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Include a pilot proposal *title* and clearly specify if you are submitting an intervention pilot proposal or an implementation science pilot proposal.
    a. For ***intervention*** pilot proposals, preference will be given to the development and pilot testing of interventions with the intention of preparing larger grants involving randomized controlled trials; quasi-experimental and other designs will also be considered**.**
    b. For ***implementation science*** pilot proposals**,** we will prioritize compelling prior evidence demonstrating some level of effectiveness or efficacy of the intervention/strategy to be implemented, such as multiple completed randomized controlled trials and/or quasi-experiments. A range of designs is encouraged for implementation studies (see framework: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3731143/), including those that assess the acceptability, feasibility, dissemination, implementation, and/or sustainability of interventions and/or implementation strategies, including quasi-experiments and mixed-methods designs.
2. Pilot proposals must include *2-4 specific aims* with the final specific aim listing the date of submission for a larger, extramurally funded grant proposal with the lead investigator of the pilot as PI or first contact PD/PI in an MPI arrangement. You must identify a specific target funding mechanism and agency.
3. At least one senior scientist must be included on the research team. We encourage interdisciplinary teams and the inclusion of early career investigators on teams.
4. Before starting the application, query emails to **irvinginst_implement@cumc.columbia.edu** are welcome. Pre-submission consultations are available upon request.

Deadlines and Submission

Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Award applications due **on or before 5pm, September 15, 2020**.

Send proposal to epi-grants@cumc.columbia.edu as a single, 5-page PDF document with no smaller than single-spaced, 11.5-point Arial font and each of the following sections

a. 1-page for title, summary and specific aims,
b. 1-page for significance and innovation
c. 2-pages for research methods and human subjects
d. 1-page for budget justification and timeline (with 6 month and final progress report deadlines, and larger grant submission dates to an intended funding agency),

Key personnel biosketches should be included after the 5-page PDF and do not count against 5-page limit.

A council comprised of each funding stakeholder will meet and make final funding decisions. Funded applicants will be notified 6-8 weeks after the due date and would begin their projects at that time or as soon as appropriate approvals are in place (e.g., IRB, if required).

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS WILL RESULT IN THE PROPOSAL BEING RETURNED TO YOU, WITHOUT REVIEW.

DO NOT INCLUDE APPENDICES.

FUNDING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN Fall 2020.

For any questions about the application process, please contact:
epi-grants@cumc.columbia.edu

For any questions about the scientific content, please contact:

Scientific focus	**Key Contact**
Intervention	Charles Branas, PhD Gelman Endowed Professor and Chair Department of Epidemiology c.branas@columbia.edu
Implementation Science	Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences rs3108@cumc.columbia.edu
Environmental Health	Matthew Perzanowski, PhD, MPH Associate Professor Environmental Health Sciences mp2217@cumc.columbia.edu