



# Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Awards

## *Application Instructions*

Co-Sponsored by:

*The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research  
Department of Epidemiology*

*The NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan  
Department of Sociomedical Sciences  
The SPIRIT Initiative*

Winter 2024

## INTRODUCTION

This year's Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Award program include collaborations with the Columbia Mailman School's Departments of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences, the Implementation Science Initiative at the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, the NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan, and the Social Psychiatry: Innovation in Research Implementation and Training (SPIRIT) initiative.

## PILOT AWARD OVERVIEW

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, community, or medical/clinical interventions
2. uptake and 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 community, clinical/health systems or policy settings.

Epidemiologic, social/behavioral sciences, population health, mental 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 funding opportunity will accept two types of submissions for projects: Mini-Pilots of up to \$10,000 and Pilots of \$20,000-\$40,000. Awarded projects will begin in June 2024.** The Mini-Pilot mechanism is intended to address time-sensitive research questions that will advance intervention and implementation science research. The Pilot mechanism is intended to provide early resources for pilot, proof-of-concept intervention and implementation science projects. Successful applicants are expected to implement plans to publish findings and to acquire future funding based on pilot award findings, ultimately leading to larger externally funded projects and producing new knowledge that directly impacts population health.

### Program Areas

Applications will be accepted in two program areas:

- 1) **Intervention Science:** Scientifically designing and testing interventions.  
Projects with development and pilot testing of interventions with the intention of preparing larger grants involving randomized controlled trials; quasi-experimental and other designs will be considered.
- 2) **Implementation Science:** Applying implementation strategies.  
Projects with 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.
  - Many research projects encounter barriers to implementation that are applicable to other domains. These projects can develop tools and solutions that can be applied across diseases and conditions. Projects that apply evidence to address implementation barriers and seek to generate generalizable [translational science](#) principles to improve research inefficiencies and roadblocks are encouraged.

- A range of designs is encouraged, 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 (see [framework: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3731143](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3731143)).

#### Mini-Pilot and Pilot Projects

- Projects may focus on a wide range of types of interventions and strategies at multiple levels, including:
  - community and population health strategies (e.g., housing, built environment, land, water, food, climate, information technology, transportation, poverty, etc.),
  - clinical and healthcare system strategies (e.g., medical care interventions or processes, clinics, hospitals, healthcare systems, precision medicine and genomic medicine implementation, community-to-clinical linkages),
  - theory-based psychosocial and behavioral strategies, among others.
- Projects in the following domains and areas are encouraged:
  - environmental health,
  - injury and violence prevention,
  - mental health, and
  - social justice and health.
- This year, we are partnering with the Social Psychiatry: Innovation in Research Implementation and Training (SPIRIT) initiative. The SPIRIT initiative aims to invest in a public health approach to investigating the physical and social environmental solutions for increased rates of psychiatric disorders in the United States (US) population. SPIRIT will support research that focuses on the following topic areas as drivers of mental health issues in the US population:
  - technology (e.g. smartphones, social media),
  - climate change, and
  - growing inequality.Funds will support SPIRIT projects focused on intervention or implementation science in:
  - school- and community-based primary prevention, economic and social policy, crisis support, or stigma reduction.
- Projects are encouraged to employ the following methods and approaches:
  - primary data collection, mixed methods (integrated qualitative + quantitative approaches), community engagement, use of mobile health technology, and/or accompanying analyses of biosamples.
- Collaboration across disciplines is encouraged.
- We encourage applications from early career and senior investigators. Teams led by early career investigators are recommended to include experienced intervention/implementation scientists (e.g., co-investigator, consultant, mentor etc.).

Special consideration will be given to projects that include research plans reflecting alignment with the Columbia University and [Irving Institute commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#), and the [Department of Epidemiology's Anti-Racist Values Statement](#). We strongly encourage applications from [underrepresented groups](#), and proposals focused on promoting health equity and/or racial justice will be prioritized.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Principal investigator(s) must have a faculty appointment of assistant professor or higher at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Faculty of all ranks are eligible to apply.
- Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Award program leadership and faculty co-sponsors, as well as senior leaders and Resource directors of the Irving Institute, may be consulted during the preparation of the application, but they should not be included as co-investigators or collaborators.
- Teams may include outside consultants/collaborators (e.g., community stakeholders) with unique experience or expertise in innovative approaches not currently available at Columbia. However, subawards are not permitted.
- During each application cycle, only one submission is permitted per principal investigator. Principal investigators may be listed as co-investigators or consultants on other applications.
- Awarded Principal Investigators will be required to submit their protocol to the Columbia IRB for review use Columbia resources to implement their project.
- We strongly encourage applications from Principal Investigators and/or teams of investigators from [underrepresented groups](#).

**FUNDING**

This is a one-time, one-year award for Mini-Pilots of up to \$10,000 and Pilots of \$20,000-\$40,000.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

March 5, 2024

**AWARD START DATE:**

June 1, 2024

Applicants will be notified in early May 2024.

**APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Before starting the application, query emails are welcome. Pre-submission consultations are available upon request and recommended.
  - Intervention Science projects: email Dr. Charles Branas (see contact information below).
  - Implementation Science projects: email Dr. Rachel Shelton (see contact information below).
2. Combine the required sections into a **single PDF**, as follows:

<i>Application Requirements</i>	<b>Mini-Pilot (\$10,000)</b>	<b>Pilot (\$20,000 - \$40,000)</b>
Cover Page	<p><b>Cover Page: Proposal Title and Team list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the Cover Page form provided at the end of this RFA.</li> <li>• The pilot proposal title must clearly specify if you are submitting an <b>intervention</b> science or an <b>implementation</b> science proposal.</li> <li>• List all team members, their role (e.g., PI, Co-PI, Co-Investigator), and demographic information.</li> <li>• The Cover Page is also accessible <a href="#">here</a> to CUMC email addresses or can be requested from Kayla Zalcgandler (<a href="mailto:kz2397@cumc.columbia.edu">kz2397@cumc.columbia.edu</a>).</li> </ul>	

Proposal	<p><b>A. Specific Aims, Project Description, and Milestone Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the specific aims.</li> <li>• List any anticipated larger, extramurally funded grant proposals that will evolve from the project with the lead investigator of the pilot as PI or first contact PD/PI in an MPI arrangement.</li> <li>• Include a brief description of your methods and/or planned analyses.</li> <li>• Include a milestone timeline.</li> </ul> <p><b>Page limit:</b> 1-2 Pages.</p>	<p><b>A. Summary, Specific Aims, and Milestone Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a summary and 2-4 specific aims.</li> <li>• The final specific aim should list 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 <u>must identify a specific target funding mechanism and agency</u>.</li> <li>• Include a milestone timeline with the larger grant submission date(s).</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Significance and Innovation</b></p> <p><b>C. Research methods and Considerations regarding human subjects</b></p> <p><b>Page limit:</b> 2-3 Pages.</p>
	<p><b>References</b> - Include your references.</p>	
Biosketch(es)	<p>Include an NIH-style biosketch for the Principal Investigator.</p>	<p>Include an NIH-style biosketch for the Principal Investigator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosketches for other Key Personnel are welcome if their inclusion will strengthen the application.</li> </ul>
Budget	<p>Include a high-level budget for <b>up to \$10,000</b> that follows the guidance below.</p>	<p>Include a budget and budget justification for <b>\$20,000-\$40,000</b> that follows the guidance below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are encouraged to consult with your department’s finance/grants division in developing the budget.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Budget Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each item must directly support your protocol.</li> <li>• Faculty salary is <u>not</u> permitted.</li> <li>• Expenses may include technologist/staff salary, fringe, supplies or research related services. Please calculate any salaries using <a href="#">Columbia University’s current fringe rate</a> for non-government (unrestricted) projects.</li> <li>• Major equipment (&gt;\$5,000), publication fees, and travel are not permitted. Subawards are not permitted.</li> </ul>	

3. Send the application to [epi-grants@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:epi-grants@cumc.columbia.edu) as a **single PDF document by March 5, 2024**. The submission should include all required sections for a Mini-Pilot or Pilot application, as described above.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Mini-Pilot applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Pilot Applications will be reviewed by reviewers using a scoring system based on a 9-point scale (1=highest) to assess the strength of the applications. An Executive Committee comprised of the funding co-sponsors will meet and make final funding decisions. Funded applicants will be notified in May 2024 and would begin their projects in June 2024, once appropriate approvals are in place (e.g., IRB, if required, and NCATS prior approval).

## PROGRAM CONTACTS:

### **Area**

Questions about the application process, eligibility, and requirements

### **Contact**

Kayla Zalcgendler, MSPH  
Senior Program Manager, Pilot and Collaborative Studies Resource

*Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research*  
[kz2397@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:kz2397@cumc.columbia.edu)

Questions about the scientific content

Intervention Science

Charles Branas, PhD  
Gelman Endowed Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology  
Director/PI, Columbia Center for Injury Science and Prevention  
[ccb2166@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:ccb2166@cumc.columbia.edu)

Implementation Science

Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH  
Associate Professor and Deputy Chair for Faculty Development and Research Strategy, Department of Sociomedical Sciences  
Co-Director, Community Engagement Core Resource  
Director, Implementation Science Initiative  
*Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research*  
[rs3108@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:rs3108@cumc.columbia.edu)

Social Psychiatry: Innovation in Research Implementation and Training (SPIRIT)

Katherine Keyes, PhD  
Professor of Epidemiology  
Director, Social Psychiatry: Innovation in Research Implementation and Training (SPIRIT)  
[kmk2104@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:kmk2104@cumc.columbia.edu)

## INSTITUTIONAL AND FUNDER APPROVALS

IRB/IACUC approval is not required at the time of application. However, IRB/IACUC approval letter must be received prior to receipt of funding. We strongly encourage applicants to have IRB approval in place prior to the proposed funding start.

All projects involving human subjects and/or vertebrate animal research that are chosen for potential Irving Institute pilot funding, are conditionally selected until appropriate approvals are received. These include **IRB and/or IACUC approval** and in many cases **NIH-NCATS prior approval**. Submission to the IRB/IACUC must be completed within thirty (30) days of notification of potential pilot funding. For conditionally selected projects that require NIH-NCATS prior approval, all documentation must be submitted to the Irving Institute immediately after IRB/IACUC

approval is received and within seventy-five (75) days of notification of potential funding. **Dispersal of funds cannot occur until all required approvals are obtained.**

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Awardees understand and acknowledge that the home department will create an unrestricted chartstring designated for this pilot award. The home department of the awardee must make purchases on behalf of the awardee and charge them to the designated pilot chartstring. The funders will then reimburse the home department on a quarterly basis after detailed financial reports for the pilot chartstring have been submitted.

**AWARDEES PROGRESS REPORTING:**

As part of our ongoing evaluation of our CTSA Programs mandated by the NIH, we will periodically request information from awardees about the progress of your research. Progress reports and/or check in calls during your project will request updates on the progress toward meeting study milestones, activities, and any challenges encountered. After the funding period ends, we will continue to ask at least once a year for a brief update about the ongoing progress of the pilot research and associated products.

Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Award - Cover Page

<b>Study Title</b>	
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Title should specify if this is an **intervention** science or an **implementation** science proposal.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b>
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	
Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

\*Read more about the [NIH's diversity statement](#). Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended](#). Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, are defined by NIH as those who meet two or more of the criteria defined in Section C in the [NIH's diversity statement](#).

<i>Team Member #2</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Principal Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborator <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	
Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

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I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
<i>Team Member #3</i>	
Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Principal Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborator <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	
Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

<i>Team Member #4</i>	
Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Principal Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborator <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	
Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

<i>Team Member #5</i>	
Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Principal Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborator <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	

**Intervention and Implementation Science Pilot Awards Application Instructions – Winter 2024**

Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

<i>Team Member #6</i>	
Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Principal Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborator <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor
Name, Degrees	
Academic Title	
Primary Department	
Email address	
Columbia UNI	
NIH eRa Commons user name	
Telephone number	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
Race (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to have a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
I consider myself to be from a disadvantaged background	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer