



Obesity Health Disparities Research Center

A HEALTHY INITIATIVE OF UAB 

Request for Applications:

Projects on Obesity- and Health Disparities- Related Pilot Feasibility Studies

(RFA-OHDRC-18-002.2)

The Obesity Health Disparities Research Center (OHDRRC) is soliciting applications for pilot feasibility studies to support new research initiatives in **any area** related to obesity and health disparities for up to \$50,000 for one (1) year. Pilot feasibility funding is intended to provide initial project support for new investigators, allow exploration of possible innovative new directions for established investigators in obesity research that represent a *significant departure* from ongoing funded research, and stimulate investigators from other areas to use their expertise for obesity and health disparities research.

Investigators who meet one of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- NIH-defined New and Early Stage Investigators at the time of funding without current or past NIH research project support
- Senior investigators who are new to obesity and/or health disparities research

Eligible applicants must have a faculty appointment or be a post-doctoral fellow. New and early stage investigators and post-doctoral fellows must identify a senior faculty member who has a strong record of NIH funding as a PI in the area related to the proposed research and who will agree to provide guidance through the duration of the proposed study. Post-doctoral fellows wishing to apply are strongly encouraged to meet simultaneously with their UAB faculty mentor and the Investigator Development Core (IDC) leaders prior to submitting a proposal. Investigators are encouraged to contact IDC leaders to determine their eligibility and appropriateness of their project:

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The pilot feasibility studies **must address health disparities and obesity**. The complex relationship between health disparities and obesity can be addressed at any domain of influence (biological, behavioral, physical/built environment, and health care systems) and within any level of influence (individual, interpersonal, community, and societal) as outlined in the [NIMHD Research Framework](#). Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate close relevance to the OHDRC's focus, OHDRC core facility usage, and likelihood of future R01 (or equivalent) funding.

Interested faculty should submit a Letter of Intent in a *single PDF* file that includes the following:

1. One (1) page Letter of Intent including the project title, PI, and mentor;
2. Abstract (<500 words) highlighting background & significance, hypothesis, specific aims, experimental design, and procedures of the project including relevant statistical analyses;
3. PI's NIH biographical sketch

Please submit electronically in a **single PDF file** through the [UAB MHRC website](#) by **Wednesday, October 24th at 11:59 p.m.** The committee will review all submissions and select the most competitive for development of a five-page application plus supporting materials for a final round of selection. Specific instructions will be provided to those selected. The full application will be due **Monday, December 10th by 11:59 p.m.**

Acceptance of funding will indicate agreement to submit a grant application for extramural funding to continue the project and to provide written progress reports at six (6) month intervals.



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The UAB Obesity Health Disparities Research Center (OHDRRC) is supported by three shared core resources that are available to support OHDRRC Pilot Feasibility Study recipients seeking the services of experts and/or access to services which are not available within their academic units or which can be provided in a higher quality and more cost-efficient manner. The cores are:

The Common Data Elements and Shared Resource (CDEMR)

The CDEMR provides statistical consultation on study design, research proposal development, and manuscript submission; provides statistical analyses for OHDRRC projects including statistical genetics, and interfaces with other research cores on the UAB campus; participates in teaching and training activities of the OHDRRC; and develops methodologies for novel experimental designs for members in the field and statistical analyses as needed. The CDEMR provides research tools, including validated scales and instruments that can be used to either directly measure or describe biological, psychological, sociocultural, environmental, geographic, and temporal variations in obesity-related health disparities.

The Academic Community Engagement and Dissemination Core (ACED)

The ACED works to strengthen and expand existing partnerships and coalitions, establishing statewide capacity for expansion of an integrated set of initiatives for obesity reduction through healthy eating and physical activity. Additionally, the core conducts targeted dissemination of research-based, obesity-related health disparities information using mass and targeted diffusion via communication channels and established stakeholder groups.

The Investigator Development Core (IDC)

The IDC identifies and funds one-year proposals for innovative research in the field of obesity-related health disparities across the life course. The goal of the core is to increase the critical mass of independent investigators in obesity-related health disparities research by providing formal mentoring and career enhancement opportunities for early stage investigators and to evaluate the progress of individual pilot projects and the cumulative success of the OHDRRC pilot program.

Key Dates

LOI Due: October 24, 2018

Application Due: December 10, 2018

Announcement of Recipients: January 28, 2019

Projected Start Date (estimated): March 1, 2019

For administrative questions, contact:

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