

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNAL UAB CFAR PILOT FUNDING APPLICATIONS



The mission of CFAR is to achieve improved diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS by facilitating the development of new knowledge from multidisciplinary research in service to the pillars of the CFAR scientific mission of HIV Basic Sciences to Impact Clinical Outcomes, Behavioral Epidemiology and Intervention, Population Health Prevention and Treatment and Community Engaged Research. Ensuring service to these overarching pillars of scientific research unifies our purpose and aligns our goals with those of the National AIDS Strategy and the HIV scientific community. The UAB CFAR focuses on funding internal grant applications that address research projects that come from research teams. The idea behind this strategy is to develop a highly integrative HIV research environment, an essential component of continued research success in the current funding landscape. Only those applications that are aligned to the pillars of the CFAR scientific mission will be considered for funding through this mechanism. We anticipate funding 2-4 applications up to \$50,000 each.

Eligibility Criteria:

Faculty, trainees, and post-doctoral fellows are eligible to apply. Graduate students and staff are not eligible. Faculty from other institutions are not eligible; an appointment at UAB is required. The integration of early stage faculty with other UAB researchers and community partners/stakeholders is key and required to advance all pilot projects within the context of a team building approach. Junior investigators developing a new and novel idea in an HIV-related field not related to current R- or U-funding that they are PI of are given preference during the review process. Established investigators who are new to HIV research (i.e., no prior HIV/AIDS funding of any type) and are looking to explore the field of HIV/AIDS are encouraged and eligible to apply. **Per NIH guidance, clinical trials are not allowed. To determine the difference between clinical studies and clinical trials, please refer to <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/definition.htm>.**

Timeline:

- RFA Released: **October 8, 2020**
- Deadline for 2-page Concept: **October 25, 2020**
- Full Application Applicants Announced: **October 28, 2020**
- Deadline for Full Applications: **December 1, 2020**
- Awards Announced: **January 29, 2021**
- Funding Start: **February 1, 2021**

Concept Proposals

To apply for CFAR funding please apply online at <https://redcap.dom.uab.edu/surveys/?s=XKRYLHKE34> and submit the following information as a single combined PDF that is no more than 2 pages in length for concept and includes biosketches as indicated below. For questions, email Mary Thielen mthielen@uabmc.edu.

Project Description

Outline the hypotheses, specific aims, brief preliminary data (if any), and brief research design. As the criteria for funding are primarily based upon the scientific merit, investigator, significance, approach, and innovation, concepts should address these topic areas.

Combined Significance and Innovation Section

Briefly explain the importance/significance of the proposed project in the context of biomedical research that is promoted by the NIAID or other NIH institutes engaged in HIV research. Describe the innovative nature of the proposal and how the proposed research will advance the field. Note the specific NIH funding sources to be targeted with the results from this study.

Eligibility/Team Building Component (no more than one-half page)

The integration of junior faculty with other UAB researchers at various levels is required by CFAR to advance all pilot projects within the context of a team building approach. Requests for pilot funding from single investigators working alone will no longer be funded with CFAR developmental funds. The PI of the study should adhere to the eligibility requirements stated above. Co-investigators should include senior, junior or early stage investigators constituting research teams. Involvement of community stakeholders is also encouraged.

Investigators should clearly state how their proposed research will impact the UAB research environment, improve the UAB research infrastructure (e.g. provision of assays, facilitating access to methods, improved knowledge, enhanced ability to apply for common funding) and thereby facilitate future HIV research by other UAB investigators.

Biosketches (Include one for each investigator) (Does not count toward 2-page limit)

All applicants and collaborators should submit NIH biosketches with personal statements adapted to describe defined roles on the project. Use the NIH form.

Researchers whose proposals are selected for the full proposal competition phase will be notified by email.

Full Applications

Full Proposals will be submitted electronically in one Adobe PDF file online using a unique URL given when invited to submit a full application. The full proposal will be submitted using the forms used commonly for NIH grant applications ([PHS 398 forms](#)) and should follow a modified NIH investigator initiated grant application (R01) format.

For detailed instructions on how to fill out the forms see: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/app/default.htm> with the following modifications. The Research Plan (Specific Aims through Approach) is limited to 4 pages (Bibliography and References Cited sections do not count toward the page limit). No appendices are allowed. Do not submit Targeted/Planned Enrollment Tables. Applications must be in English. ***Please note that applications that do not adhere to the instructions will not be considered.***

The Full Proposal should include (in this order in a single Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) file):

1. Complete budget and justification: (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
2. Research Plan (Maximum 4 pages for **a-d** below). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
 - a. Specific Aims (suggested length ½ page)
 - b. Significance (suggested length 1 page)
 - c. Innovation (suggested length ½ page)
 - d. Approach (suggested length 2 pages)
3. Description of the Research Environment (suggested length ½ page). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
4. Bibliography and References cited (as needed) Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
5. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable; maximum 1 page). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
6. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable; maximum 1 page). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
7. Letters of Support (letters of support from collaborators essential to the proposed project must accompany the application).

Budget Development Guidelines and Restrictions (NIH budget form (Form page 5) with justification)

- Maximum direct costs will be specified at the time of the announcement; Indirect costs are allowed at the UAB rate. Awards are one year in length. One no-cost extension may be requested at the end of the first year budget period only.
- Salary support is limited to 10% for the PI, unless special permission is received.

- Budgeting for travel to other conferences to present project research results is allowable (travel budget limited to no more than \$2000).
- Costs associated with Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of human research protocols, or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review of animal research protocols, are not allowable as direct charges. Submit a CFAR Researcher Support Funding Application for such costs (see CFAR Developmental Core Page).
- Awardees who have support from K awards should discuss eligibility issues with their program officers and with institutional officials as eligibility may vary by NIH sponsor for the K award and institutional policies. The staff of this mechanism is not able to determine eligibility for K awardees.
- Current T32 awardees can apply for CFAR funds provided NO salary/stipends are taken from the CFAR award.
- All costs must conform to the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) and applicable U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB circulars for necessity and reasonability, allocability, conformance and consistency, as well as allowability. Please follow the link below to section 7.2 cost principles section of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

Review Criteria

A Scientific Selection Committee (SSC) consisting of members from the CFAR Executive Committee will review the applications. Criteria for selection are primarily based upon the scientific merit, investigative team, significance, approach, and innovation. Specifically, the project will be evaluated for its significance to the U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy and how well it is aligned with the strategic interests of the UAB CFAR. Applications must clearly describe how data resulting from the Developmental Award will be used to apply for K- or R-NIH funding. Applications based on a high degree of innovation are preferred. The use of CFAR Core Services is strongly recommended. Applications that do not include a clear description of how the proposed research will lead to the formation of a research team are deemed ineligible. Applications will be reviewed by the CFAR Biostatistics and Analysis Team as part of the review process.

Award Details

Pre-Award Approvals

Funding will be awarded from the UAB CFAR Finance Office. All questions regarding the awarding of funding should be directed to the contact listed in the notice of award. Prior to the awarding of funding, the following information must be provided, if applicable:

- Animal Care and Institutional Review Board approvals, if applicable, must be obtained prior to receipt of an award, but are not required to submit an application. Prior to funding, a copy of all [Institutional Biohazard](#), Animal Care and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals must be forwarded to the post-award administrator. Prior to receipt of an award involving human subjects, IRB approval from all participating sites and human subjects training certification for all key personnel will be required.
- For more information about human subjects approval, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/> and <http://funding.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/sci/human/pages/default.aspx>.
- For more information on animal care approvals, see: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm> and <http://funding.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/sci/animal/pages/default.aspx>.

Post-Award Requirements

- Applicants chosen for funding will be expected to present the details of their study to the CFAR Research Roundtable Meeting or the UAB CCTS PDQ Committee for review of the study. This will provide an opportunity to identify additional synergies within CFAR, explore other means of support and recommendations to enhance the study. Other presentations, including a 'research in progress talk' (midway) and at the end of the funding period may also be requested.

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- Applicants may be required to attend mentoring activities sponsored by the CFAR. These activities may include workshops, trainings or meeting with advisors to facilitate faculty development.
- Applications may be partially funded across two CFAR budget periods in partial amounts. Remainder of funding will be awarded upon satisfactory progress towards the proposed aims and evidence of appropriate spending. Awarded funds should be expended within a 12 month period beginning with the date of the award. Funds can be extended for a 6 month period with justification.
- Awardees will be required to submit yearly progress reports**. Awardees will be tracked after the award ends to monitor productivity (abstracts, publications, grants).
- Support from this mechanism must be [acknowledged](#) in all publications and presentations. Visit the CFAR website for language describing the appropriate acknowledgement of this funding source (Link to [CFAR Branding](#)).
- If for any reason the awardee is unable to fulfill the requirements or adhere to the policies of the award, at the discretion of the funding mechanism leadership, the award may be revoked.

****All recipients of CFAR funding are obliged to provide information, not limited to, progress reports, final performance reports, and outcome reports, as requested by the CFAR Administrative Core. Failure to provide such information in a prompt and timely manner may result in the immediate termination of the grant and will preclude the grantee from applying for future CFAR funding opportunities.**

For questions, contact Mary Thielen at mthielen@uabmc.edu as the UAB CFAR Program Manager.