Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health
UAB Heersink School of Medicine

Request for Applications (RFA): Telehealth Pilot Grants
DEADLINE EXTENDED

PURPOSE: The mission of the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health (MHIGH) is to promote healthy lives through training and mentorship of global health scholars, innovative scientific research, and ground-breaking service initiatives embedded in genuine collaboration, trust and multi-directional global health partnerships.

The goal of the MHIGH Telehealth Pilot Project mechanism is to improve health outcomes through global telehealth services facilitated by UAB. This pilot award will help improve health, save lives and offer access to advanced medical information, expertise and services routinely available in the US, but not in many of our partner countries. Telehealth services may include clinical consultation or second opinions and/or diagnostic support including laboratory, pathology and imaging/radiology support.

Applications focusing on the following principles will be considered:
- Include both asynchronous and synchronous interactions with users
- Present an opportunity for long-term impact of services by offering a training component with telehealth initiative

DURATION OF FUNDING: Up to 24 months
RANGE OF REQUESTED FUNDS: Up to $25,000 (additional co-funding is encouraged)
NUMBER OF AWARDS: 1

TIMELINE:
- RFA Released: June 30, 2023
- Application Deadline: October 31, 2023
- Awards Announced: November 13, 2023
- Funding Start: November 20, 2023

ELIGIBILITY: A collaborator included in the application must be a faculty member (or trainee working with a faculty member) in the UAB Heersink School of Medicine and must include a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) or Co-investigators in partner countries especially LMICs as defined by the World Bank. Guidance or assistance facilitating a relationship can be offered by Eric Wallace, MD (ericlwallace@uab.edu).

https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519
Other MPIs or Co-investigators may be included from any UAB school or partner country. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Submit one pdf file with the following components to ghi@uab.edu prior to the application deadline at midnight (Central Time) on September 1, 2023. Please specify "MHIGH Telehealth Pilot Project Submission" in the title.

1. Cover Page: include project title, Principal Investigator's name, title, department, phone number and e-mail address; names, titles and affiliations of other MPIs and co-investigators.
2. Project Strategy: maximum five single-spaced pages, 11 point Arial font, and 0.5-inch margins. **See**

critical elements section below.
3. Budget: include the following categories: Materials and supplies; equipment; other activities and services needed to complete the project. PI Salary support is **not** allowed.
4. Budget Justification: Justify each amounts requested and explain what the funds will accomplish.
5. Biosketch: NIH biosketch format of the PI and key investigators.
6. Submit a pdf file in the order outlined above.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT STRATEGY SHOULD INCLUDE (5 pages total):

Specific Aims: Define the aim(s) of the project and which outcomes will be assessed. Outline the evaluation design.

Significance: Provide a focused overview of the project highlighting the public health significance and the need for this particular telehealth project.

Long-term impact – Explain why this project presents an opportunity for long-term impact of services by offering a training component with programs.

Interactions – Outline how the project will Include both asynchronous and synchronous interactions with users.

Approach: Summarize the activities and the timeframe that is proposed to address the specific aim(s).

Bio-sketches: All applicants and collaborators should submit NIH biographical sketches (5-page limit) with personal statements adapted to describe defined roles on the project. Use the NIH biographical sketch form approved for use on/after January 25, 2022. The form, instructions, and sample biographical sketches are available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

Please note: The integration of junior faculty with other UAB faculty at various levels is required by MHIGH to advance all pilot projects within the context of a team building approach and the true spirit of global health partnerships. Requests for pilot funding from single individuals working alone will not be funded with these pilot project funds. The PI of the project should adhere to the eligibility requirements stated above. Co-investigators should include senior, junior, or early-stage investigators constituting project teams. Involvement of community stakeholders is also encouraged.

REVIEW PROCEDURES:
Applications will be reviewed by faculty at UAB and partner countries with appropriate expertise in global health and telehealth. The evaluation will follow the NIH scale (1-9) to assess Significance, Long Term Impact, Leverage, Addressing Challenges, Interactions and Approach.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: Final award decisions shall be made by MHIGH leadership. It is anticipated that 1 award, up to $25,000, will be awarded for this cycle based on promise, evaluation plan, and/or scientific merit.

Award Details
Funding will be awarded from the MHIGH Administrative Office. All questions regarding the awarding of funding should be directed to the contact listed in the notice of award.

Additional details:

- Maximum award is $25,000. Indirect costs are generally not covered but line items essential for the success of the project, should be included in the budget. Awards are one year in length. One no-cost extension may be requested at the end of the first year budget period only.
- 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.

Post-Award Requirements

• Applicants chosen for funding will be expected to present the details of their study at an MHIGH forum or symposium, to be announced in the coming year. This will provide an opportunity to identify additional synergies within UAB and MHIGH, explore other means of support, and gather recommendations to enhance the project. Other presentations, including an update at a monthly 'MHIGH Research in Progress' meeting (midway) or at the end of the funding period may be requested.

For general questions or more information please email: **ghi@uab.edu**

For programmatic/operations questions or to discuss your telehealth application, please contact Eric Wallace, MD (ericlwallace@uab.edu), Associate Director for Telehealth Initiatives at the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health.