



TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE CENTER
FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

**Request for Applications:
Research Projects on Solutions for Obesity in the Mid-South,
with a Focus on Social Determinants (RFA-TCC-15-001)**

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The approaches promoted in this Funding Opportunity Announcement are based on the public input received through the Mid-South TCC research crowdsourcing platform (crowdsource.dopm.uab.edu) in response to the obesity challenge launched in November, 2014. Of 111 ideas received, content experts selected the top solutions grouped into four themes:

- * **Mobile Food Markets** - This theme is based on an idea to work with local organizations to create mobile markets, such as food trucks selling affordable fresh foods, to serve disadvantaged neighborhoods and areas identified as food deserts. Mobile markets can include a health education and/or food preparation components.
- * **Use of Technology and Mobile Devices** - This idea proposes to leverage the power of smart technology or the Internet of Things (IoT) to identify behavioral patterns, which in combination with demographic and other information can be used to determine specific factors that contribute to obesity. Research under this theme should use smart technology and mobile devices as tools for solving the challenge of obesity in the Mid-South.
- * **Food Ratings with Incentives at the Institutional Level** - This theme combines ideas for rating the food available for purchase at schools, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, and other institutions on a scale of A through F based on its nutritional value and energy density. Incentives for individuals who choose healthy options could be made available in various forms, e.g., discounts on future purchases of healthy items, cash rewards, lower health insurance rates, or gym memberships.

* **Family-Based Approaches** - This concept is based on the idea to center obesity prevention interventions to the family level. A family-based approach allows for intervention early in the life course, thus increasing the probability of maintaining healthy habits for current and future generations of a family.

II. Award Information

Available Funds: The Mid-South TCC intends to commit approximately \$300,000 for this round of applications. Funding is contingent upon NIH appropriations.

Number of Awards: Up to 4 projects will be funded.

Award Budget*:

* Up to \$100,000 total for research involving academic-community partnerships;

* Up to \$50,000 total for secondary data analysis and other research not involving academic-community partnerships.

*Award budgets are total costs for the entire duration of the project.

Award Project Period: The award project period is up to 2 years. Quarterly progress reports will be required for all funded projects, and funding will be contingent upon making adequate progress consistent with the proposed research plan.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Faculty members of all ranks at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Jackson State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Louisiana State University, and Dillard University are eligible to apply. Applicants at the levels of Instructor or Assistant Professor must have a senior faculty serving as a mentor.

2. Community organizations in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky in collaboration with an investigator from the academic institutions listed above.

* Collaboration between principal investigators from at least two eligible academic institutions is required for secondary data analysis and other research not involving community partners.

* Collaboration between academic and community investigators from eligible academic institutions and community organizations is required for research involving community partners.

* Applicants may participate in more than one application per cycle but may not submit more than one application as the Principal Investigator of a project.

IV. Key Dates

Letters of Intent due: February 23, 2015

Applications due: April 1, 2015

Announcement of recipients: May 15, 2015

Project start date: August 1, 2015

LETTERS OF INTENT AND APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
AT www.uabmhc.org BY 11:59 PM ON THE DATE DUE.

EVENTS

March 16, 2015

Mid-South TCC Annual Regional Meeting

Birmingham, Alabama

March 17-18, 2015

10th Annual UAB Health Disparities Research Symposium
The Science of Health Disparities: From Social Causes to Personalized Medicine

DoubleTree Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama

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UAB 10TH ANNUAL
HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
March 17-18, 2015 . DoubleTree Hotel . 808 20th Street South . Birmingham, AL 35205

**The Science of Health Disparities:
From Social Causes to Personalized Medicine**

NIMHD
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

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MINORITY HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH CENTER
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