UAB CENTER FOR PALLIATIVE & SUPPORTIVE CARE
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

PREP
Palliative Research Enhancement Project

Palliative **R**esearch **E**nhancement **P**roject (PREP)
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
LOI Deadline: 5pm CT, January 25, 2027

The **Center for Palliative and Supportive Care** invites innovative research proposals highlighting palliative and supportive care for the 2027 PREP Awards. The mission of **PREP** is to fund innovative research of UAB community investigators to enhance the prospects for external funding opportunities and contribute to the palliative and supportive care evidence base.

The project proposed should be able to be accomplished within 2 years. A maximum of **$25,000 can be requested**. Funds will be available beginning **May 1, 2027.**

PREP awards will support research in the area of palliative and supportive care in populations with serious illness across the lifespan.

- Strong consideration will be given to projects that focus on the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care Priorities areas (increasing access, caregiver support, symptom science, and communication, understanding specific communities' needs), have future impact on regional palliative and supportive care delivery.. For more information regarding our research priorities, please visit: https://www.uab.edu/medicine/palliativecare/research

- Consistent with our strategic plan to "Cultivate Community Engagement to scale and spread culturally informed PSC research and education and increase access to high quality PSC in the Southeast" we encourage community agencies with research ideas to partner with a UAB faculty member to develop a PREP proposal. If a community agency has a research question or idea and cannot identify a suitable UAB faculty, please reach out to Racheal Nerud at rachneru4673@uabmc.edu and the PREP team can help identify a UAB partner.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Grants must include at least one UAB faculty lead. That faculty lead is open to UAB faculty at all ranks. Post-doctoral students and early career faculty members are encouraged to apply with a UAB faculty mentor who has extensive research experience. *Strong consideration will be given to early career investigators with intentions of continuing the research after the award period ends.*

2. Current or former PREP Awardees (PIs) are not eligible.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL CRITERIA AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Projects can be interdisciplinary, translational, policy-related, clinical or educational. Projects may use community based participatory methods as appropriate. Note: if your proposal involves an element of community engagement, we encourage the inclusion of a community member in your proposal.

2. Allowable expenses include those that directly support research activities (e.g., clinical research coordinator time, participant incentive, community advisory board participant payments, transcription) but not researcher time.

3. Projects that currently have extramural funding will not be considered.

4. Awardees will provide 6, 12, and 18-month reports, as well as a final project report. If projects are anticipated to exceed the 2-year completion date, then a no-cost extension should be formally requested in writing 2 months prior to the scheduled date of completion.

5. Awardees are expected to present project findings at UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care Seminar Series. They are also expected to review future PREP project submissions.

6. Awardees are also expected to utilize the Palliative Care Research Consultation Office Hours as a resource. These office hours occur 1–2 times per month and will be sent out to center members as an email invitation as they are scheduled,. Office hours are intended to provide focused, one-time, or episodic consultation support to strengthen research design, methodology, and alignment with palliative and supportive care priorities.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. A Letter of Intent (LOI) should be submitted electronically by **5pm CT January 25, 2027**.
   The LOI should not exceed 800 words and should include the following:
   - **Research plan**
     Present an abstract of the research you plan, including specific aims, impact, innovation, significance, and design components (study subjects, variables, sample size, etc.).
   - **Promoting CPSC Mission**
     Briefly describe how this research would help promote the mission of the CPSC. (To see the CPSC's Mission, Vision, and Values please click here).
   - **Training plan (for early career investigators and Postdoctoral fellows only)**
     Describe the role of your mentor(s) and indicate any plans for additional training.
   - **Resources**
     Summarize the resources that are currently available to you.
   - **Next Steps**
     Describe how this proposal will allow you to continue your program of research after the conclusion of the PREP cycle.

   LOIs should be uploaded as a single PDF using the RFA instructions provided here. At the end of the PDF,applicants should include the PI's biosketch. Biosketches should be in the NIH 5 page format. (For more information on the NIH 5 page format please click here).

2. PIs selected to submit full proposals will be notified by **Friday, January 30th, 2026**. The full proposal will be **due on Monday, March 16th, 2026 by 5 PM.** The instructions for the full application will be emailed to the project PIonce the application has been selected.

RFA Announcement	**October 15th, 2026**
Letter of Intent deadline	**January 25th, 2027**
Full Proposal applicants notified	**January 29th, 2027**
Full proposal deadline	**March 15th, 2027**
Notification of Award	**Week of April 19th, 2027**
Funds available	**May 1st, 2027**

CONTACT

For questions, please email Racheal Nerud at rachneru4673@uabmc.edu.