The Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities (GMaP) Program in Region 4 (Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Rhode Island and Wisconsin) is focused on advancing Cancer and Cancer Health Disparities (CHD) research and training in our region by supporting the next generation of cancer researchers.

The Expert Grant Review award is intended to assist New Investigators\(^1\) and Early Stage Investigators\(^2\) who are applying for funding awards with feedback from senior researchers in the region. Grants are welcome in the following categories: (1) Population-based Research, (2) Basic Science Research, or (3) Clinical/Translational Research.

Region 4 is comprised of a variety of Cancer and CHD researchers who are experienced with the grant writing process and successful grant funding outcomes. Feedback from such experts may be useful to New or Early Stage Investigators prior to submitting a competitive grant application.

This award supports pre-submission peer review of grant proposals by outside experts. Applicants should also consult with the program directors for the anticipated funding agency prior to submission (e.g. National Cancer Institute [NCI] Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities [CRCHD] program director) for feedback and guidance.

Thank you for your interest in the GMaP Region 4 Expert Grant Review award. Please take a moment to review the eligibility requirements, review process, and application packet.

Eligibility Requirements

- Investigator at an institution within GMaP Region 4 (see above).
- Investigator must be early stage (ESI)\(^3\) or New\(^2\).
- Investigator must intend to apply for funding via one of the CURE mechanisms within the next two years (see [https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure](https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure)).
- Applicant must be applying as PI for funding from one of the following funding agencies: NIH/NCI (e.g. K01/K02/K07/K08/K23/K24/K25/K99 or R01/R03/R15/R21/R34), ACS, DOD, or PCORI grant mechanisms. Application must address a relevant Cancer or Cancer Health Disparities (CHD) problem. However, priority will be given to research across/in any scientific discipline that focuses on CHD research within Region 4.
- Applicant cannot be a PI on existing select federal grants such as R01 and U54 grant mechanisms.
- Applicants must be sure they meet eligibility requirements for the grant mechanism they are applying to for funding.
- Institutional or collaborative grants are not allowed.

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1 Investigators are considered early stage investigators (ESI) if he/she is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residence (or equivalent).

2 Investigators are considered a new investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH independent research award.
**Review Process**

- Applicant must submit a letter of intent to the GMaP Region 4 coordinator 12 weeks prior to grant submission deadline to express interest in the grant review program.

- Applicant must submit an abstract, specific aims page, and biosketch to the GMaP Region 4 coordinator 10 weeks prior to grant deadline to request grant review. Submitted documents will be circulated to the GMaP internal coordinating committee to identify individuals who have expertise in the specific research area.

- Applicant may identify a qualified reviewer of their choice. If needed, assistance is available to identify potential reviewers. Applicants may also request their grant not be reviewed by certain investigators.

**Two Options for Review:**

1) **Complete Grant Review**

Once a reviewer is selected to review your grant:

- A completed grant application (except budget) must be ready to be sent to the selected reviewer 8 weeks before grant deadline.

- Applicants must send by email the completed grant application as a single PDF directly to the reviewer.

- The reviewer will have 4 weeks (28 days) to provide written feedback using NIH, ACS, DOD, or PCORI review criteria. Reviewer comments will be sent to the applicant and to the GMaP Region 4 Coordinator.

- Honorarium will be sent directly to the reviewer once the review comments have been received by the GMaP Region 4 Coordinator.

2) **Partial Review**

Once a reviewer is selected to review your grant:

- Applicant may select portions of their grant (e.g. specific aims and methods) for review. Those components must be ready to be sent to the selected reviewer 8 weeks before grant deadline.

- Applicants must send by email the selected components of their grant application as a single PDF directly to the reviewer. It is imperative that the submitter provide enough detail to provide sufficient context for the reviewer.

- The reviewer will have 2-4 weeks (based on complexity of what is to be reviewed) to provide written feedback using NIH, ACS, DOD, or PCORI review criteria. Reviewer comments will be sent to the applicant and to the GMaP Region 4 Coordinator.

- Honorarium will be sent directly to the reviewer once the review comments have been received by the GMaP Region 4 Coordinator.

- The applicant will receive the reviewer comments in alignment with specified grant mechanism criteria 4 weeks before the grant deadline. A conference call between the applicant and reviewer is encouraged to discuss feedback and provide any clarification necessary.

- Upon completion, the applicant and reviewer will both be asked to complete a short evaluation of the grant review program.

- All expert grant reviewers will have served (current/past) on grant mechanism study section.
Applicants should expect the entire review process to take up to 12 weeks (depending on full or partial review).

Questions and Submission
Please email any questions and/or the completed Expert Grant Review Award application to the GMaP Region 4 Regional Coordinating Director Carrie Norbeck at Carrie.Norbeck@fccc.edu.

Completed application is comprised of:
- Expert Review Grant Application
- Grant Abstract
- Grant Specific Aims page
- Applicant biosketch (PI Only)
- Proposed Expert Grant reviewer current CV (PDF) or NIH biosketch (if applicable)