Pilot Funding in Cancer and Cancer Health Disparities

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 GMaP Region 4 program is pleased to announce the availability of pilot funds to generate feasibility data for larger research/education projects for early stage investigators in GMaP Region 4 focused on Cancer and Cancer Health Disparities (CHD) research. Pilot/feasibility projects must fall into at least one of the following categories: (1) Population-based Research, (2) Basic Science Research, or (3) Clinical/Translational Research.

Award Information

- Applicants may request up to $10,000 (total costs). Funds will be offered via a Purchase Service Agreement (PSA).
- Application is due by 5:00 pm EST on April 1, 2017.
- Pilot funding supports one year only (May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018).
- Minimum number of pilot projects funded per year: 2
- Projects are not renewable and investigators can only be PI on one project.
- Allowable expenses include:
  - Research materials (e.g. Project specific supplies, participant stipends, etc.)
  - Research assistants/ lab technicians; Consultant fees
  - Core services (e.g. translation, surveys, graphics, microarray, etc.)
  - Mileage (e.g. mileage related to this pilot project data collection & dissemination, etc.)
- Non-allowable expenses include:
  - Overhead
  - Faculty or administrative staff salary
  - Training (e.g. statistical training, other)
  - Graduate student tuition
  - Equipment (over $500)
  - Conference Travel (or mileage not related to data collection, etc.)

Eligibility Requirements

- Investigator at an institution within GMaP Region 4 (see above).
- Investigator must be early stage (ESI)\(^1\) or New\(^2\). Masters and Predoctoral applications will be considered.
- 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)

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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.
Proposal Submission

- An electronic copy of the proposal application should be sent as a single PDF file attachment by 5:00 pm EST on April 1, 2017.
- Proposals must be in at least one of the following categories of focus: Population-based Research, Basic Science Research, or Clinical/Translational Research.
- Proposals should support Cancer and CHD research projects and have the potential to lead to peer-reviewed external funding and publications.
- Proposals must include a one-page career and professional development plan for the ESI, including timeline for application to CURE mechanism.
- Proposals must include a NIH biosketch.
- Proposals must include a letter of support/recommendation from ESI’s mentor or department chair (one-page limit).
- Proposals must include a Scope of Work (maximum 2 pages) and a detailed budget and justification. Clearly state total costs of this project and describe how funds requested will be allocated. Include Federal ID number for site.

Review Criteria and Process

Accepted applications are evaluated for the following:

- Scientific merit
- Potential for the proposal to lead to peer reviewed external funding and publications and competitive extramural funding (e.g. R01, R03, K series, etc.)
- Appropriateness of the career development plan
- Appropriateness of budget for the proposed work
- Feasibility to complete work in the proposed time (May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018)

The GMaP Region 4 Internal Coordinating Committee (ICC) will conduct a peer-review of the pilot funding applications. The ICC Review Committee members are a diverse group of faculty from GMaP Region 4 partner institutions representing all disciplines of Cancer and Cancer Health Disparities Research. NIH scoring scale will be used, and the scores will guide the selection of awardees.

After the review process, written reviews will be provided to the Investigators. Feedback will include whether or not the project represents a good match to the categories of the Cancer or CHD research pilot funding award. Promising proposals will be provided with specific suggestions to enhance competitiveness of the research project.

Review and notification will be completed no later than April 15, 2017.

Award activation no later than May 1, 2017. The funding would come via a Purchase Service Agreement (PSA) and payment would require an invoice accompanied by progress reports detailing what was accomplished.

Awardees’ Obligation

The GMaP Region 4 pilot funding award carries several important obligations and responsibilities. Specifically, award recipients agree to the following:

- Awardees must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals before funds will be allocated. IRB approvals are not required at the time of submission.
- Awardees must submit, no later than 90 days after the completion of the project, a two-page report. This report is submitted via email and describes: 1) pilot project progress and results, 2) all publications and funding resulting from the project, and 3) future directions.
- These funds are for one year. It is expected that the grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the one-year term of the award.
• 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).

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

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Questions and Submission
Please email any questions and/or the completed Pilot Funding in Cancer and Cancer Health Disparities application, proposal, and budget to the GMaP Region 4 Regional Coordinating Director Carrie Norbeck at Carrie.Norbeck@fccc.edu.

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