

**Request for Pilot Project Proposals from the Population Health Initiative, Population
Research Center
Due Date: April 11, 2016**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Population Health Initiative (PHI) invites faculty researchers at the University of Texas at Austin and the SPH-Austin to submit pilot proposals for research in the area of population health. Projects will begin in the summer of 2016 and must be completed by June 30th, 2017. Pilot project support is intended to assist researchers in jumpstarting research agendas that ultimately lead to the development of grant applications to federal agencies and foundations.

RESEARCH FOCUS

The PHI promotes research dedicated to understanding health dynamics and disparities in the population and which will ultimately lead to improvements in population health. Interdisciplinary frameworks and methodological approaches are especially encouraged that speak to the complex nature of population health problems operating at the community, regional, and national levels.

Population health science is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to integrate knowledge, theory, and tools from multiple disciplines – e.g., biology, the social and behavioral sciences, epidemiology, and genetics — to develop a broad understanding of the multi-factorial pathways that produce health and health disparities so that more effective solutions can be found. The field is a scientific response to the critical need to understand and address large scale and complex population health problems such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, and ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in a range of physical and mental health outcomes. Population health science recognizes that much of what determines health outcomes originates outside the clinical setting, pointing to the need for solutions that encompass the full range of clinical and non-clinical interventions, policies, and practices.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

The PHI provides support for projects at different stages of development.

Level 1 pilot grants (\$1,000-\$7,500) support either individual research project development or the creation of networking groups and research teams. Funding could be used to pay for meetings, graduate assistant time, consultant time and travel, and travel related to the formation and on-going activity of the networking group.

Level 2 pilot grants (\$7,500-\$30,000) support the development of multi-investigator interdisciplinary research projects with specific research questions, a well-conceived theoretical basis, an identified team of collaborators, and the potential to gain external funding. Level II funding can be used to pay for graduate student time, travel, speakers, consultants, or hourly support of activities. Co-funding with other units is encouraged.

The PHI anticipates funding multiple level 1 pilot grants and 1-2 level 2 pilot grants in the next funding cycle.

TIMETABLE

- April 11, 2016: Proposals are due in an NIH format that includes no more than three single-spaced pages including Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Research Design. In addition, an NIH detailed Budget Page and Justification, and

NIH Biosketch must be included. Please submit the text and additionally requested materials in one PDF file (see Format of Proposals below).

- Week of April 18th, 2016: Notification of decisions, request for budget revisions and human subjects approvals.
- Start Date: After submission of IRB approvals.
- Duration of Pilot Projects: Until June 30, 2017.

FORMAT OF PROPOSALS

Cover page with title and investigator's name, whether the proposal is for level 1 or level 2 funding, and an abstract that clarifies the value of the research; NIH Face-Page (Form Page 1); NIH biosketch for all key-personnel; a PHS 398 budget page (Form Page 4 - <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>) and budget justification; plus a proposal (maximum of 3 pages) briefly covering specific aims, significance, innovation, and research design/methods. Proposals using human subjects will need institutional IRB approval before funding is awarded.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Please submit proposals as a single PDF file **by Monday, April 11th, 2016** to Mary de la Garza (marydlg@prc.utexas.edu).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated for: (a) the quality of the proposed research; (b) relatedness of research to the mission of PHI; (c) likelihood that proposed work will result in external federal or foundation funding within 2-3 years; (d) likelihood the research will result in important publications with insights into population health; (e) credentials of investigators. Early career investigators are especially encouraged to apply. Awardees must be affiliates of the Population Health Initiative.

For more information about scientific issues, please contact:

Mark Hayward, University of Texas at Austin, mhayward@prc.utexas.edu, 512-471-8382, CLA 2.622E.

For more information about administrative and budget issues, please contact: Mary de la Garza (marydlg@prc.utexas.edu), 512-471-5345, CLA 2.602A