NEW FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT
CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Grants

DEADLINE FOR LETTERS OF INTENT: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Date: January 24, 2012
To: CIRA and CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Paul D. Cleary, Ph.D., Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
Subject: Grant for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research

Purpose

The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at the University of Connecticut will provide joint funding for a pilot project in HIV/AIDS prevention research that will be carried out collaboratively by CHIP and CIRA investigators. Proposed projects should be consistent with CIRA’s mission to support the conduct of research on the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and the reduction of the negative consequences of HIV disease in vulnerable and underserved populations nationally and abroad, and CHIP’s mission to advance the science of health behavior change and health risk prevention. In this round of funding, preference will be given to projects that emphasize translational/implementation research that focuses on priority populations identified in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf or research projects that address the HIV epidemic in international settings.

Implementation research is defined as the systematic study of how a specific set of activities and designed strategies are used to successfully integrate an evidence-based public health intervention within specific settings (e.g., a primary care clinic, community center, or school).

Funding Available

One pilot project will be funded under this announcement with a maximum award of $50,000. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award, no later than June 30 2014. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP and CIRA.

Eligibility

Faculty and research scientists at CIRA and CHIP may apply for funds to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications to be submitted by a CHIP-CIRA research team (i.e., the grant should appear to have an equal likelihood of
being ultimately submitted through either CHIP or CIRA with a substantial subcontract to the other). Proposals will require at least two PIs, one from CIRA and one from CHIP, who will make equal contributions to the proposed research and have roughly equal expenditures. Applicants must demonstrate intent to apply for national research funding within a defined timeline, and describe new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration. Preference is to support new collaborations and thus to fund a new CHIP-CIRA team. If the team applying has already worked together, the researchers must justify that the proposed research will constitute a significant departure from past work. Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research associates are not eligible to apply for these pilot grants. Applications will be reviewed by a joint review committee made up of both CHIP and CIRA members, including members of CIRA’s Community Advisory Board. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs’ own research programs. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs’ names will not be considered.

Applications must be for work that will foster collaborative research among CHIP and CIRA and will markedly assist in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications, to be submitted through CIRA or CHIP by a specified target date.

Letters of Intent and Application Process

Applicants must submit a one to two page Letter of Intent via email as a Word or PDF attachment to Jon Atherton at jon.atherton@yale.edu no later than Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The letter should identify the project title; PI names, and their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department/institution affiliations, and positions, and; the names of key collaborators. The letter should provide a brief outline of the proposed research project, including an estimate of total project cost, and describe how it will meet the review criteria (below). Letters must certify that any external grant applications which derive from the pilot grant research will be submitted through CHIP or CIRA.

Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be due on Thursday, April 5, 2012.

Those invited to submit a full application will be linked to an appropriate CIRA Core to receive support to develop their application, start up and conduct their study, analyze results, write manuscripts, consider external funding options, apply for external funding, resubmit external funding applications if necessary, and ultimately secure funds.

Review Criteria

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews
- Equal collaboration among CIRA and CHIP investigators
- The approximately equal likelihood at its inception that a proposal will elicit external funding through either CHIP or CIRA, with a significant subcontract to the other
- Importance of the research question
• Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals testing new methodologies, theories, and/or new domains in need of pilot data
• Composition of the research team (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference)
• Relevance of the work to the missions of CIRA and CHIP

In addition, we will also consider where the PIs are in their funding cycles (e.g., at the start of a large grant vs. at the end), and the track record of the PIs in realizing outcomes (e.g., external grants) from previous internal grants.

Inquiries

We welcome inquiries about this opportunity. Please contact:

Jon Atherton
Assistant Director, Development Core
Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
jon.atherton@yale.edu
203-764-8476

or

Jeff Fisher
Director
Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu
860-486-4940