

CIRA 2024 Pilot Projects in HIV Research

The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University (CIRA)'s **2024 Pilot Projects in HIV Research Program** offers funding for preliminary and/or feasibility studies in HIV-related research that will ultimately lead to larger studies evaluating novel interventions or implementation strategies. This funding mechanism is not intended to supplement the costs of activities covered by another grant.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. **CIRA Pilot Research Award (\$15,000 max, up to 2 awards)** for research into reducing HIV inequities and/or incorporating key health justice constructs (e.g., social determinants of health, structural or systemic racism, and stigma).
2. **CIRA Community Partnership Kickstarter Research Award (\$5,000 max, up to 1 award)** for supporting community-academic research partnership initiatives to promote equity in HIV prevention and treatment.
3. **CIRA-Yale Institute for Global Health (YIGH) Joint Pilot Call (\$15,000 max, up to 2 awards)** for research on the syndemics of HIV/AIDS and noncommunicable diseases (NCD) in high-burden countries for HIV/AIDS.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

For funding categories 1 and 2, we strongly encourage consistency with CIRA's aims, namely:

- Research into reducing HIV disparities and/or promoting status neutral HIV-related care.
- Research approaches or methods incorporating key health justice constructs (e.g., social determinants of health, structural or systemic racism, stigma).
- Studies that focus on populations at high risk of HIV infection and investigate how to reduce disparities in HIV incidence, prevalence, and outcomes among marginalized populations, including those with common co-morbidities such as substance use and mental health disorders.
- Studies that examine the well-being of people with HIV or at risk for HIV who are affected by humanitarian crises (e.g., natural disasters, conflicts, forced migration or other displacement).
- Application of implementation science, community-engaged research, health services research, or digital health methodologies.
- Alignment with the [NIMH HIV Prevention and Care Continuum, Co-Morbidities, and Translational Research areas of emphasis](#).

Additionally, for funding category 2, applicants should:

- Involve one or more specific community-based organization partners and briefly describe the nature or history of the academic-community collaboration.
- Name a community-based co-investigator.

Additionally, for funding category 3, we strongly encourage consistency with CIRA and YIGH's aims, namely:

- Research involving participants in [high-burden countries for HIV/AIDS](#) and engaging local communities and partners.
- Studies that focus on populations at the highest risk of adverse HIV-NCD health outcomes and investigate how to reduce disparities in HIV-NCD outcomes among marginalized populations.
- Studies that develop and test models and strategies for integrating care for HIV and NCDs, including the use of existing novel technologies (e.g., mobile devices, information systems, artificial intelligence).
- Representation of more than one discipline or school in the study team.

KEY DATES:

Letters of intent due: Friday, December 1, 2023

Invitation to submit full applications: Friday, December 8, 2023

Applications due (by invitation): Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Awards announcement expected: week of January 29, 2024

Earliest start date: March 1, 2024 (dependent on IRB and NIMH approvals)

ELIGIBILITY:

Emerging and new investigators (including post-doctoral fellows and associates, research associates, research scientists, and assistant professors) affiliated with CIRA and/or a [YIGH Faculty Network](#) will be given priority, although associate professors can also apply as principal investigators (PIs). An individual investigator may only serve as PI on one proposal.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

PIs who have been invited to submit a full application should submit their applications by email as a single PDF attachment to Daniel Davidson (daniel.davidson@yale.edu) by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Please structure the application according to the following requirements:

1. **Use Arial font size 11**, half-inch margins on all sides, and number all pages;
2. Include a **cover letter** that provides the project title, funding category, PI(s) name(s), department affiliation and position, and contact information (mailing address, phone number, email address), names of all key personnel on the project, and total direct costs for the proposed project;
3. **Detailed Budget and budget justification.** Please use *PHS 398 Form 4* for the application budget (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.PDF>). Funds (not to exceed amount stated in the respective award category and one year) can be used to support:
 - research-related personnel,
 - PI effort,
 - routine research-related expenses,
 - research-related travel,
 - essential supplies for this project.Funds may not be used to support:
 - travel to conferences,
 - routine office equipment such as computers,
 - or indirect costs.
4. **Research plan** (maximum three pages, not including reference list) consisting of three sections:
 - Significance (significance should include a brief description of the parent grant on which the proposed pilot is based and how this proposal extends that grant)
 - Innovation
 - Approach (the approach section should specify a timeline for completion of the project within one year of award)
5. **References cited;**
6. **NIH formatted [biosketch](#)** or CV for the PI(s) only;
7. **Proof of IRB request submission;**
8. **Training certificates** in Human Subjects Protection for **all key personnel** within the past three years;
9. **Proof of established collaboration** with any partner organizations involved in the conduct of the proposed research (e.g., letters of support).

Priority for funding will be based on:

- The alignment of the proposed research with the funding priorities and CIRA's mission;
- The scientific merit of the research plan;
- The feasibility of the research including the likelihood that it will be completed within one year;
- Where appropriate, an international study's feasibility in the host country setting;
- Where appropriate, a project's collaborative feasibility with partner organizations; and,
- The likelihood of the research building scientific capacity that will lead to a larger, externally-funded study.

The principal investigator(s) selected to receive funding will be required to meet with CIRA leadership at the outset of the project period and periodically as appropriate. Awardees must submit a six-month progress report, a one-year final progress report at the end of the funded project, and an additional report one year following the project's completion. This additional report will consist of a detailed description of progress to date and a listing of all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded), conference or meeting abstracts, and presentations or seminars relating to the pilot project.

For questions about this funding announcement, please contact John Pachankis (john.pachankis@yale.edu), Director of CIRA's Development Core.