

## Call for Letters of Interest: Pilot Projects in HIV Research

### OVERVIEW

The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University seeks letters of intent for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research. The pilot program is a key part of CIRA's mission to develop new science and scientists.

Pilot awards offer resources for preliminary and/or feasibility studies in HIV-related research that will ultimately lead to larger intervention or implementation science projects. Pilots are designed to support junior investigators, and/or community-university research partnerships. [See current and past CIRA Pilot Award recipients.](#)

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

Pilot funding will be prioritized based on inclusion of the following elements:

- Research into reducing HIV inequities and/or incorporating key health justice constructs (e.g., social determinants of health, structural or systemic racism, and stigma). Studies focus on populations at the highest 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.
- Application of innovative Implementation Science strategies (e.g. community and population health strategies, and psychosocial and behavioral strategies) which may help reduce HIV inequities.
- Alignment to the NIH HIV/AIDS Research Priorities outlined in [NOT-OD-20-018](#).

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$25,000 maximum

**DURATION:** One year

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** Up to two awards

### KEY DATES:

Letter of intent due: March 15, 2021

Application deadline: April 26, 2021

Pilot Project Review Panel: May 2021

Awards announcement expected: May 2021

Earliest start date: June 1, 2021 (dependent on IRB and NIMH approval)

**LETTER OF INTENT:** Applicants must complete the [online survey](#) by Monday, March 15, 2021, setting out the title and preliminary abstract of the project, the names and contact information of all key personnel, and which of the NIH HIV/AIDS Research Priorities the proposal is best aligned to.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Invitation to apply will be contingent upon (1) alignment with the funding priorities and [CIRA's mission](#), (2) the feasibility of the project, and (3) the potential for the project to lead to a larger research study.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Emerging and new investigators (including Post-Doctoral Fellows and Associates, Research Associates, and Assistant Professors) affiliated with CIRA are eligible to apply as PIs.

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact [Katie Doucet](#), Assistant Director of CIRA's Development Core. If you wish to discuss a project you are considering for submission, please contact [LaRon Nelson](#), Director of CIRA's Development Core.

## ANNEX A

### REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by a Pilot Project Review Panel drawn from CIRA affiliates and including a member of the Community Advisory Board, and representatives from the IRM Core and CIRA's training programs, in addition to the Development Core Director and senior/mid-level CIRA scientists to determine suitability. Applicants will receive feedback from the panel.

### REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers will use the NIH scoring system and the criteria listed below:

1. **Scientific merit:** Does the proposed research explore original and/or innovative concepts, approaches or methodologies, tools, or technologies?
2. **Feasibility:** Is the team qualified? What is the rationale for the recruitment plan and is it feasible? Can the study be done in one year? Can this project be completed with the funds requested? If the setting is international, is the project feasible in the host country setting?
3. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
4. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field? Has the literature been reviewed and is it clear how it supports the proposal?
5. **Funding priorities:** Does the project align with the priorities of this RFA? Is it relevant to CIRA's mission? Does it promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices, interventions and policies into routine health care and public health settings? What is the prior evidence demonstrating effectiveness or efficacy of the intervention to be implemented? Is the proposal innovative, interdisciplinary research focused on the implementation of HIV prevention and treatment and the elimination of HIV disparities?
6. **Likelihood of externally awarded funding:** Is the pilot project targeted at development of an NIH style grant proposal? Is there a referenced RFA? Will completion of the pilot project increase the probability of obtaining AIDS funding from NIH?
7. **Alignment with NIH HIV/AIDS Research Priorities:** Does the work align with the research topics of high priority as designated by the OAR in NOT-OD-20-018?