UNMC Vice Chancellor for Research
Health Disparities Pilot Grant Request for Application
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

**Purpose:** Reducing health disparities is one of UNMC’s primary goals. Health disparities are complex and require larger teams with various skills to identify novel strategies to address them. This RFA supports new or expands existing teams to develop or study innovative strategies for reducing health disparities.

Definition of health disparity: “Although the term disparities is often interpreted to mean racial or ethnic disparities, many dimensions of disparity exist in the United States, particularly in health. If a health outcome is seen to a greater or lesser extent between populations, there is disparity. Race or ethnicity, sex, sexual identity, age, disability, socioeconomic status, and geographic location all contribute to an individual’s ability to achieve good health” ([Healthy People 2020](https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/)).

**Award Description:** $50,000

**Period of Performance:** July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

**Eligibility:** Any UNMC faculty (assistant professor or above) from any college; including faculty who have a signed employment agreement in place with a start date prior to November 1, 2022.

**Application Deadlines:**
- RFA Announcement: February 9, 2022
- Application submission: 5:00 PM, March 9, 2022
- Review and notice of grant award: April 2022
- Grant award: July 1, 2022, pending regulatory review and approval

**Review process:** A committee of UNMC and community members will be identified to review once applications have been submitted to avoid conflict of interest. Colleges may nominate potential reviewers and may be asked to recommend reviewers. Please email tess.kuenstling@unmc.edu with reviewer nominations.

**Selection Criteria:** Priority will be based on the following criteria.
- Scientific merit and likelihood of new extramural funding
- Health disparities significance in our region, as documented by literature or community member priorities
- Proposals with the greatest impact (on prevalence or severity of disparities)
- Focus on under-represented minorities in our region: African-Americans, Latino/a, Native Americans
- Projects being conducted in Nebraska, in part or wholly
- Evidence of community participation and/or input as documented by letter(s) of support, where applicable

**Reporting requirements:** PI must submit a final report and accomplishments by June 30, 2023 through NuRamp. The report should include plans for submitting applications for extramural funding and any awards successfully competed for due to this project.
**Formatting:** Format application to NIH page standards (font, margins, line spacing) and include regulatory sections as relevant.

**Grant Application Format:** The proposal must be submitted per NIH application standards as a single PDF and should include:

I. **Face Page**

II. Lay Abstract (maximum 250 words)

III. Project Description including the following elements (maximum five pages):

A. Page one: Introduction, Hypothesis, Specific Aims or Goals

B. Pages two-five: Research Plan
   1. Background & Significance
   2. Innovation
   3. Research Design & Methods
   4. Timeline/Expected Outcomes

IV. Bibliography: references or literature citations should be included but will not be counted as part of the five-page limit.

V. Data Safety Monitoring Plan: should be included where appropriate; but will not be counted as part of the five-page limit.

   A. Evidence of application to appropriate regulatory bodies (e.g., IRB) should be demonstrated, but approval is not required until at time of submission.

   B. Funds will not be released until appropriate regulatory approvals are received.

VI. NIH Biosketch with current funding for every investigator that is listed on the Face Page.

VII. Pilot **Grant Budget form** with budget justification.

   A. Clearly articulate any plan for subcontracting to other entities (include the amount to be subcontracted).

   B. Explanation of equipment.

   C. This grant budget can be supplemented, if eligible, with funds submitted to and approved by the Research Support Fund. Please include your intent to apply for these additional funds in your budget justification.

**Excluded budget categories:**

- Indirect costs (F&A)
- Faculty effort/salary
- UNMC faculty or staff computers unless for developing a community research station
- Travel other than for the immediate development of the project (e.g., coordinators, patients, collaborators)
- Foreign travel or travel to national meetings to present the work, or for manuscript submission
- Completed PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report.

**Submission Information:**

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on March 9, 2022. NuRamp will not accept applications after the deadline. Applications must be submitted electronically through the NuRamp Internal Competitions module. Upload the application as **one single pdf** under the NuRamp File Upload field. Routing is not required, your signed face sheet will serve as the routing approval for this competition. *Don’t forget to sign your application after submitting to routing.*

**Contact**

For competition questions, [email] Tess Kuenstling, PhD, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research. For NuRamp assistance, [email] James Geiger, Research Data Analytics Manager.