

**Health Disparities VCR Pilot Grant
Request for Application Fiscal
Year 2021-22**

PURPOSE: Reducing health disparities is one of UNMC's primary goals. Health disparities are complex and require larger teams with a variety of skills to identify novel strategies to address them. This RFA supports new or expands existing teams for the development or study of innovative strategies for reducing health disparities.

Health disparity Definition (per Healthy People 2020): "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" <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/foundation-health-measures/Disparities>

AWARD DESCRIPTION: \$50,000 for one year.

ELIGIBILITY: Any UNMC faculty from any college; including faculty who have a signed employment agreement in place with a start date of November 1, 2020 or before.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- RFA Announcement: January 26, 2021
- Application submission: 5:00 PM, March 9, 2021
- Routing signatures completed: noon, March 16, 2021
- Review and notice of grant award: April 6, 2021
- Grant award: July 1, 2021, assuming regulatory review complete and approved

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.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Priority will be based on the following criteria.

- Scientific merit and likelihood of new extramural funding
- Health disparities significant in our region, as documented by literature or community member priorities
- Proposals with the greatest impact (on prevalence or severity of disparities)
- Focused 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

REPORT REQUIREMENTS: PI must submit a report of progress and accomplishments by June 15, 2022 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.

Health Disparities Pilot Grant Applications must include the following:

1. **UNMC Internal Proposals** [Front Sheet](#)
2. **250-word Lay Abstract**
3. **Five page Project Description including the following elements:**
 - Page one: Introduction, Hypothesis, Specific Aims or Goals
 - Page two-five: Research Plan
 - i. Background & Significance
 - ii. Innovation
 - iii. Research Design & Methods
 - iv. Timeline/Expected Outcomes
4. **Bibliography:** references or literature citations should be included, but will not be counted as part of the five page limit
5. **Data Safety Monitoring Plan:** should be included where appropriate; but will not be counted as part of the five-page limit. Evidence of application to appropriate regulatory bodies (e.g., IRB) should be demonstrated but approval is not required until notice of grant award.
6. **NIH Biosketch** with current funding for every investigator listed on the Front Sheet.
7. **Pilot Grant** [Budget form](#) with **budget justification**. This grant budget can be supplemented, if eligible, with funds submitted to and approved by the Research Support Fund (see <http://www.unmc.edu/ctr/resources/pilot-grant/>). Please include your intent to apply for these additional funds in your budget justification.

Excluded budget categories:

 - i) indirect costs (F&A)
 - ii) faculty effort/salary
 - iii) UNMC faculty or staff computers unless for developing a community research station
 - iv) travel other than for the immediate development of the project (e.g., coordinators, patients, collaborators)
 - v) foreign travel or travel to national meetings to present the work, or for manuscript submission
8. Completed [PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report](#).

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications must be submitted by **5:00 PM on March 9, 2021**. 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 submit your application after marking complete and saving.

For additional information contact: Tess Kuenstling, Director of Research Resources 402-559-6162 or [email](#). For NuRamp assistance contact: Linda Wilkie, 402-559-7649 ([email](#)) or James Geiger, 402-559-4565 ([email](#)).