UNITE GENERAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Release Date: **9/16/2024**
Application Deadline: **11/1/2024**
Project Duration: **12 months**

The UNITE Research Priority Initiative was established to leverage existing strengths and forge new collaborations among investigators, trainees, colleges, and research groups with a focus on elevating impactful research at the University of Kentucky. One component of UNITE's mission includes support for research that will result in impactful scholarly outputs and extramural funding for sustainability. Pilot funding is available to support projects of scientific merit that will generate competitive submissions for external funding. The goal of the pilot funding mechanism is to support innovative solutions, novel methodologies, and new collaborations that will culminate in publications, funding, and awards. For more information on the UNITE Research Priority Area, please visit our website at **https://www.research.uky.edu/unite-research-priority-area**.

This notice solicits applications for pilot projects that include clear evidence of potential for future funding and address a critical issue within the Commonwealth or beyond. **Tangible results are expected from the funding: e.g., a grant application for external funding. Applicants are required to detail the external funding opportunity, the funding announcement number, and the funding application deadline.**
The number of awards will depend on the type of proposals received. There are three tiers of funding for this mechanism.

Tier 1: Compact Pilot - up to $10,000
Tier 2: Standard Pilot - up to $25,000
Tier 3: High Impact Pilot - up to $50,000

Eligibility is limited to full-time faculty (all title series including regular, research, clinical, and special) at the University of Kentucky who are members of the UNITE RPA. Investigators in training including students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and clinical fellows may serve as Co-investigators but are not eligible to serve as Principal Investigators. All UK applicants must be members of UNITE, please email **UNITE-RPA@uky.edu** to request membership.

Applications are due **November 1, 2024**.

Submit the application as a single (1) PDF file to **UNITE-RPA@uky.edu**. Applications must be single-spaced, at least 11-point Arial font, and adhere to standard grant 1/2-inch margins. **Applications that do not adhere to the formatting requirements may be rejected during the administrative review process.** Proposal submission through OSPA is not required.

Applications must include:

- UNITE Pilot Grant application form (attached)
- Project Aims (1 page)
- Research Plan (3 pages)
  - Briefly describe the significance, innovation, and approach.
  - Include a timeline for activities.
  - Describe the plans beyond the pilot project, including dissemination plans and submissions for extramural funding (**e.g., please include the names and expected application date of the extramural funding opportunities**).
- References do not count toward the 4-page total.
  - NIH style biosketch OR an abbreviated curriculum vitae for each investigator (5-page limit per investigator) with each investigator's role on the project clearly outlined. Please check **here** for instructions on formatting an NIH biosketch.
- Budget/justification (1 page)
  - Provide detailed justification for each budget item or category.
  - Allowable expenses include travel costs associated with data collection or recruitment, student research assistants, participant payments, and other standard research expenditures.
  - Non-allowable expenses include office supplies, meals, food, and/or drinks, conference travel, faculty overloads, indirect costs, salary for 11- or 12-month faculty, and computers and equipment.
  - **Note:** The review committee will make budgetary recommendations that may impact the final award amount.
- Statement of collaborative or matched support from the PI's department chair or college ADR (1 page)
  - Examples of collaborative support may include - but are not limited to - cost share for faculty effort, monetary support for the project, effort from a staff member to assist with project execution, release of duties to execute the project, faculty start-up funds, etc. The collaborative support by the college/ department for UNITE research initiatives aligns with the university's **strategic plan**.
- Letter(s) of support (e.g., community partners, consultants, data, or facilities access needed to complete the project)
- Should any component of the research require the use of human subjects, please indicate whether Institutional Research Board approval has been submitted.
- Please provide the names of at least two reviewers related to the research area of interest for the proposal. The suggested reviewer **must not** be a collaborator for the project or have provided a statement of support for the pilot application.

Reporting Requirements
All publications, presentations, and other creative activities resulting from this award must include the following acknowledgment: "Funding was provided, in part, by the UNITE Research Priority Area at the University of Kentucky." **A final report that is one (1) page in length is due at project completion. It must detail the tangible results, e.g., status of external grant submission, citations from publications, presentation, and next steps.** Recipients are expected to be responsive to ongoing contact from the UNITE RPA to assess progress and outcomes from the award. Awardees are also required to present their findings at UNITE-sponsored events upon request.

Application deadlines and key dates
11/1/2024: Applications due
No later than 1/17/2025: Selected applicants notified

The project is expected to end 12 months from the project start date. No-cost extension requests **will not** be approved. The project start date is dependent on IRB approval and disbursement of funds but must be within 45 days of the award notification date. **Funding may be withdrawn if the project is not started within 45 days of award notification. Projects must have IRB and other applicable required regulatory approvals in place before funding will begin.** Please address specific questions regarding your application to **UNITE-RPA@uky.edu**.

Review Criteria
The selection committee, and possibly external reviewers, will review proposals. The review committee will also assess whether the proposed budget and timeline are appropriate for the scope and nature of the project and whether there are any human subjects considerations that may affect study implementation. Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Significance: (i.e., Does the project address a critical issue in the field? Does the study have the potential to generate relevant knowledge?)

Innovation: (i.e., Does the proposal utilize novel theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation or apply existing concepts to new problems?)

Approach: (i.e., Are the intended research activities well-described and feasible within the project timeline? Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?)

Investigator(s): (i.e., Does the PI have the appropriate experience and training, evidence of productivity and/or potential to be an investigator for the proposed project? Does the PI and research team have the required expertise and experience to conduct the proposed research study?)

Evidence of future research and funding potential: (i.e., Does the proposed research show unambiguous evidence of potential for future research funding? Does the project have public relevance, accessibility, and intellectual promise? Does the proposal adhere to the specific requirement regarding a clear explanation of the next steps toward external funding and provide details regarding an identified funding mechanism?

UNITE GENERAL PILOT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Section A: CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

College: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

UNITE RPA Member:

       Yes   No

Section B: OTHER PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S), CO-INVESTIGATOR(S), OR COLLABORATOR(S)

Name: _____

Role on project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on project: _____

College: _____

UNITE GENERAL PILOT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Section C: DEPARTMENT BUSINESS MANAGER
Individual specific to PI's college or academic unit

Name: _____

Title: _____

College: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Section D: TITLE OF PILOT PROJECT

Pilot Project Title:

Section E: BUDGET

Proposed Dates

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Section F: RESEARCH AREA

Cancer

Cardiovascular

Diabetes and Obesity

Energy

Materials Science

Neuroscience

Substance Use Disorder

UNITE

Other, please specify:

_____

UNITE GENERAL PILOT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Section G: PRIOR REVIEW

➢ **Has this project been previously submitted for internal grant funding?**

◯ Yes ◯ No

If Yes, please provide:

- Date Submitted: _____
- Grant Mechanism (e.g., IRC, VPR pilot funding): _____
- Score & Summary of Feedback:

  _____

➢ **Has this project been previously submitted for external grant funding?**

◯ Yes ◯ No

If Yes, please provide:

- Date Submitted: _____
- Grant Mechanism/Funding Agency (e.g., R03, NIDA): _____
- Score & Summary of Feedback:

  _____

Section H: REVIEW/APPROVAL REQUIRED BY UNIVERSITY POLICY & FEDERAL LAW

➢ **Does this project involve the use of human subjects?**

◯ Yes ◯ No

If Yes, the project MUST be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to funding start. Please provide:

- IRB Protocol Number: _____
- Date Approved: _____
- If not approved yet, IRB date submitted _____

UNITE GENERAL PILOT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Section I. Abstract (300 words or fewer)