Collaboration between the College of Medicine Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the UNITE Research Priority Area
Community Advocacy through Faculty and Student Research

University of Kentucky

RELEASE DATE: April 1, 2024
- *Application Deadline:* **Friday, May 3, 2024**
- *Announcement of Awards:* **Friday, May 31, 2024**
- *Project Duration:* **12 Months**
- *Project start date dependent on IRB approval and disbursement of funds (must be within 1 month of notification of the award.)*

To advance transdisciplinary, community-based participatory collaboration, promote health equity, and advance student-engaged research, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Medicine in collaboration with the UNITE Research Priority Area is offering pilot funding to support student projects that focus on identifying, reducing, and/or eliminating health disparities. **All applications must address how the pilot project will: (1) directly contribute to achieving health equity for a vulnerable population, (2) meet with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion monthly to provide project updates, and (3) be presented to the College of Medicine and participate in the UNITE Research Priority Area events.**

Proposals must demonstrate **transdisciplinary collaboration** among student investigators from various departments and centers within the College of Medicine. Eligibility is limited to investigators who are full-time graduate students, professional students, undergraduate students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, or clinical fellows in the Kentucky College of Medicine. Further, each proposal must involve a community organization and collaborators including other trainees. This is meant to use a team science approach to improve collaboration. All projects must include two faculty co-mentors. Faculty mentors and student team members from across campus (not limited to the College of Medicine) are eligible to apply. However, it is required that at least one student team member OR one faculty mentor is affiliated with the College of Medicine.

A maximum of $12,000 will be awarded for 12 months. Faculty that are not on a 12-month contract are allowed to budget summer efforts not to exceed $3,000. It is expected that four proposals will be funded depending on applications received. Applications are due **Friday, May 3, 2024**. Submit the application as a single (1) PDF file to **Qualtrics**. Applications must be single-spaced, at least 11-point font, and adhere to standard 1-inch margins.

Applications must include:
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research plan (2 pages)
  - Briefly describe the significance, innovation, and research methods including the health equity implications of the project.
  - Include a timeline for activities.
  - Describe the plans for dissemination
  - References do not count towards a 2-page total.
- NIH or NSF-style biosketch OR abbreviated CV for each investigator (3-page limit per investigator) with each investigator's role on the project clearly outlined.

- o Specify the involvement of the community organization.
- Budget/justification (1 page)
  - o Provide brief justification for each budget item or category that specifies how funding will be used to advance community initiatives.
  - o Allowable expenses include equipment, travel costs associated with the research, participant payments, food associated with data collection or recruitment, stipends, and other standard research expenditures.
  - o Non-allowable expenses include conference travel and tuition.
  - o Note: budgetary recommendations will be made during the review process that may impact the final award amount.
- Letter(s) of support from a community organization is required.
- Letter(s) of support from two faculty co-mentors is required.

Reporting Requirements: All publications, presentations, and other creative activities resulting from this award must include the following acknowledgement: "Funding was provided, in part, by the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Medicine and 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 detailing project outcomes, project enrollment, results, and dissemination to be submitted via Qualtrics**. An oral presentation is due to the College of Medicine at project completion and recipients are required to attend and participate in the UNITE Research Priority Area programming. Awardees are expected to be responsive to ongoing contact from the UNITE RPA and the College of Medicine to assess progress and outcomes from this award.

Projects must have the appropriate IRB and any other required regulatory approvals in place before funding will begin.

Please address specific application questions to Kevin Pearson, PhD (Kevin.Pearson@uky.edu) or Pilar Prather, PhD (Pilar.Prather@uky.edu).

Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Scoring of proposals will be based on the standard NIH 9-point scoring system. Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Significance: (i.e., Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in the field or community impacting a vulnerable population? Does the project have the potential to generate knowledge relevant to health equity? Does the project have the potential to positively impact the community?)

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

Research Methods: (i.e., Are the intended activities well-described and likely to be feasible? Are the overall strategy, methodology, and implementation of the project well-reasoned and

appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are project limitations acknowledged and addressed?)

Investigator(s): (i.e., Does the research team have the appropriate experience and training, evidence of productivity? Does the research team have the expertise and experience to conduct the proposed project? Does the project include a community organization? Does the research team have support from two faculty mentors and a community organization, as specified in their letters?)

The review committee will also assess whether the **proposed budget and timeline** are appropriate for the scope and nature of the project and whether any human subjects' considerations may affect project implementation.

For questions please contact:

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