UMN/CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS OF MINNESOTA
CHILD HEALTH COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

2015-16 Request for Proposals

The University of Minnesota’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), in partnership with the UMN Department of Pediatrics and Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota announces the 2015-16 Child Health Collaborative Grant Award.

This grant is designed to support a collaborative project that addresses an important and unmet child health issue in communities across Minnesota. This funding opportunity represents a major effort on the part of the University of Minnesota CTSI to build and sustain significant long-term partnerships between University of Minnesota investigators and community investigators at Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota. Our vision is to enable and support engaged scholarship that is co-developed by these partners. This model gives a high priority to community-based knowledge and expertise at Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota, including active identification and prioritization of the most critical child health issues needing to be addressed, and emphasizes linkage of these perspectives with the skills of researchers at the UMN. The long-term goal of such an engaged scholarship model is development of innovative, evidence-based health improvement strategies and translation of such strategies to improved health outcomes for child and adolescent populations throughout Minnesota.

The Collaboration must involve at least two co-Principal Investigators: one from Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota, and the other from the University of Minnesota (including campuses in greater Minnesota). Applicants from UMN must be current, full-time faculty members in any track. In addition, the application must demonstrate active engagement with and input from an investigator who is based in the University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Pediatrics. Proposals can be based on active partnerships, but applications that generate new partnerships are strongly encouraged, if they can demonstrate a rapid pathway to initiation of a research project. Junior investigators are encouraged to apply. Up to 10 proposals will be...
invited for full review and consideration following review of the letters of intent (described below).

Projects seeking this funding should represent novel, high-impact research or inquiry into issues that affect child or adolescent health. In addition, funded projects should hold the promise of developing into long-term research and evaluation projects that will attract larger grants from National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other federal, state, or private funding agencies.

Research proposals should consider the respective strengths of the individual institutions and ongoing collaborative research activities. The solicited proposals should build on existing strengths and provide opportunities for further engagement. A major area of emphasis is on community health impact as it relates to an area of child health. This RFA specifically identifies the following areas as high-priority areas for future work:

- Childhood mental health/behavioral health/substance abuse
- Health disparities
- Community population health (including rural health)
- Social determinants of health (homelessness; food insecurity; transportation; language barrier; violence)

Applications must include substantive intellectual and other contributions from investigators at Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota and the UMN. Other investigators engaged in child health research and advocacy at programs such as Hennepin County Medical Center, Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare, and Health Partners are also encouraged to apply, but engagement with investigators at UMN and Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota must be demonstrated.

An emphasis should be placed in the application on the respective and unique strengths and contributions from investigators at both institutions (UMN and Children’s). Collaboration and interaction with public agencies (Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Department of Human Services) is strongly encouraged. Study design of the proposed projects must include significant contributions from investigators at both organizations in the following areas:

- Development of the study hypothesis/aims/design.
- Conduct of the study, including clearly delineated lines of responsibility for completion of study aims.
• Analysis of the study, including articulation of a plan for biostatistical evaluation, power analyses, etc.
• Metrics for data presentation, publications, and future funding plans.

A Letter of Intent is required, limited to one page, single-spaced (Arial font, 11 point font size) with 0.5-inch margins. Please submit to ctsi@umn.edu by January 29, 2016. Selected investigative teams will then be invited to submit full applications. Invitations will be issued by March 1, 2016, with full applications due by April 25, 2016. Full applications will undergo an NIH-style review by a diverse study section consisting of investigators from UMN, Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota, MDH, Health Partners, and community-based organizations with an interest in child health. Details about review criteria will be provided to those invited to submit a full application. An application will be selected for funding by June 6, 2016.

It is anticipated that one award will be funded, with a two-year budget period spanning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. A total budget request of up to $200,000 will be considered. Funding for the second year of the proposal will be contingent on submission of a satisfactory progress report covering the first year of the grant. Indirect costs will not be supported. Up to 5 percent of salary effort may be requested. Additional budget details will be provided at the time of invitation for full applications. Please visit the CTSI website or call 612-625-2874 for more information about this proposal.

Criteria for review will include the following components:

• Investigators. Is there clear evidence for engagement of investigators from both institutions? Is there evidence that co-PIs will each bring creative, independent intellectual contributions to the project? Do the investigators demonstrate a track record of previous collaboration, or outline a compelling plan for future collaboration?
• Environment. Is there evidence that both institutions are committed to the proposed project? Do letters of support exhibit existing infrastructure and resources necessary to support the proposed project?
• Synergy. How will the proposed project leverage the respective strengths of the two institutions? What will the collaboration facilitate that neither institution could accomplish acting individually?
• Innovation. What innovative approaches/methods are proposed that could change the approach to the problem being studied, and/or generate new knowledge that would substantively advance the field in question?
• **Impact.** What is the public health importance of the child health problem being proposed for Minnesota children? What are the prospects that the work being proposed can have an impact on the health problem under investigation?

• **Prospects for Scholarship and Future Funding.** Do the co-PIs express a plan/timeline for scholarly publication/presentation of findings? Do the co-PIs outline a plan for future extramural funding for continued study/intervention/public health impact of the problem in question (NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MDH, philanthropy, or other sources of support)?

**UMN/CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS OF MINNESOTA**  
**CHILD HEALTH COLLABORATIVE GRANTS SCHEDULE**

- **December 21, 2015**  
  RFP released to community and UMN

- **January 29, 2016**  
  Letter of Intent submission deadline

- **March 1, 2016**  
  Invitations for submission of full proposal

- **April 25, 2016**  
  Applications due by 5:00 pm

- **April 26 – June 5, 2016**  
  Proposal Review Process

- **June 6, 2016**  
  Funding Award(s) announced

- **July 1, 2016**  
  Project(s) begin