The University of Minnesota Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), in partnership with both UMN Department of Pediatrics and Children’s Minnesota, is pleased to announce the 2020 Child Health Collaborative Grant Award Request for Applications (RFA).

This grant is designed to support a collaborative project that addresses an important and unmet child health issue within communities across Minnesota. Our vision is to enable and support engaged scholarship that is co-developed by Children’s Minnesota and University of Minnesota (UMN). The long-term goal of this program is innovation that connects the development of evidence-based health improvement strategies with the translation of those strategies into improved health outcomes for children and adolescents throughout Minnesota and the nation.

With this RFA, we encourage applicants to develop rigorous scientific projects that examine interactions within and between the clinical and social aspects of life. Proposals should represent novel, high-impact research or inquiry into issues that affect child or adolescent health. In addition, research that addresses health disparities and/or the social and behavioral determinants of health are strongly encouraged. Proposed projects should outline the potential for 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. The committee wishes to draw particular attention to the following topics that are timely and important in our communities*:

1. **Family Fragility and Disruption:** We know that the family unit is critical to the well-being of children and have witnessed shifts in US immigration policy that contribute to family disruption and fragility. While Minneapolis and St. Paul seem comfortably distant from problematic international borders, family disruption/fragility are exerting negative influences on health within Minnesota communities. With this RFA, we seek proposals that help to improve and manage topics related to family fragility and disruption. We encourage applications that focus on topics including the impact of immigration policy shifts on family stress or separation, along with topics of family violence, poverty, food insecurity and other social determinants of child health.

2. **School-based Racial Segregation:** Sixty-five years ago, in *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka*, the US Supreme Court passed a unanimous verdict declaring that school-based racial segregation was unconstitutional. Despite this ruling, we continue to live and educate our children in racially segregated communities. With this RFA, we are encouraging applications that draw upon the scientific method to
better understand the impact of *de facto* school-based racial segregation in our surrounding communities.

*Although the two topics listed above are of particular importance to the committee, proposals related to a wide variety of topics will also be considered.*

The Collaboration must involve at least two co-Principal Investigators: one from Children's Minnesota, and an investigator from UMN (including out-state campuses). Applicants from Children's Minnesota must be either employed or contracted for 0.5 FTE or greater. Applicants from UMN must be current, full-time faculty members in any track. If one of the co-PIs is not a full-time investigator based in UMN Medical School Department of Pediatrics, the application must include a co-investigator based in UMN Department of Pediatrics, with demonstration of active engagement in the proposed project. Proposals can be based on active partnerships, but applications that generate new partnerships are strongly encouraged. Junior investigators are encouraged to apply. The collaboration of investigators from Hennepin Healthcare, Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care, HealthPartners and public health agencies is also encouraged, although the two co-PIs must be from UMN and Children’s Minnesota. Proposals must clearly explain the roles and responsibilities of all research team members 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.
- Plans for scientific and community-based dissemination of findings.

**Timeline of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Grant RFA announced</td>
<td>November 26, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals due (NIH-style format, submitted electronically)</td>
<td>January 17, 2020, 5:00 PM CST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding decision announced</td>
<td>February 21, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project commencement</td>
<td>February 28, 2020</td>
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Proposals are due, via UMN's [REDCap application system](https://www.uky.edu/health+wellness), by 5:00 pm on January 17, 2020. Proposals should include a project narrative (4-page maximum), a budget and budget justification, timeline of events, and three letters of support. Full instructions for preparing the narrative and budget are provided in the [application form](https://z.umn.edu/child-health-rfa-19).
It is anticipated that one award will be funded, with a two-year budget period spanning February 28, 2020, through February 28, 2022. 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 10% of salary effort may be requested. Please visit the CTSI website for more information.

Applicants should note that a broad range of available research resources are available to help inform your proposal. Researchers who believe that community input into their project may partner with CTSI’s Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health (CEARCH). Working with CEARCH staff, investigators may propose, in their application, to include a Community Engagement Studio as a component of their project. The Studios provide a mechanism to allow researchers to obtain community input into their project. Similarly, Children’s Minnesota has a department of Data and Analytics, department of Equity and Inclusion, community advisory boards, and employee resource groups that all can help further support team science and institutional collaboration by assisting with disseminating study findings to our peers, to study participants themselves, and to the broader community who stand to benefit from these research projects and what is learned.

Proposals will be reviewed by investigators from UMN and Children's Minnesota. Criteria for full proposal review will include the following components:

- **Investigators:** Is there clear evidence for engagement by all investigators? Is there evidence that co-PIs each will bring creative, independent 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 indicate 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 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 for Minnesota children of the problem being addressed, particularly in the key target areas of the RFA in disrupted family structure and fragility and racial inequity in education? What are the prospects that the work can have an impact on the health problem under investigation? How will study findings be shared with community stakeholders?

- **Prospects for scholarship and future:** 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, CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, philanthropy, or other sources of support)?
Thank you for considering an application for the 2019-20 Child Health Collaborative Grant Program! Please contact Stuart Winter (stuart.winter@childrensmn.org) or Mark Schleiss (schleiss@umn.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Stuart Winter

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