

2021 Program Description and Call for Applications

The Southern California Center for Chronic Health Disparities in Latino Children and Families is pleased to announce its Pilot Projects Program. This new program will support **one-year research projects** to understand and address health disparities among Latinos, including but not limited to disparities in obesity, type 2 diabetes (T2D), non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and dyslipidemia (DL). We will prioritize research that is led by investigators who are early-career, new to the field, or from URM (i.e., underrepresented race and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, sexual minorities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds), to support their transition to independent funding. We will also prioritize supporting projects that integrate multidisciplinary team science. The Center's Investigator Development Core (IDC) will award seven pilot projects per year, at \$50,000 in direct costs per project for a one-year project period. Each funding year, an additional \$50,000 will in all likelihood be available for vouchers (up to \$10,000 each – details provided upon full submission) to cover services provided by the Center's Cores for funded pilot projects. Pilot studies can compete for a second-year renewal, depending upon satisfactory progress.

These awards are intended to support:

- Preliminary research that will lead to larger extramurally funded human mechanistic studies, clinical trials, community trials, health outcomes research, or implementation research.
- Pre-existing research in the above-referenced areas by incorporating a different discipline and investigator who is new to collaboration with the current team. The award may be used to leverage data and resources from a currently funded project to expand the research in a new direction, ultimately leading to the submission of an additional grant or expansion of the current effort to a larger-scale extramurally-funded project.
- The collection and analyses of additional data for a reapplication that would help an investigator respond to a previously favorable committee review that yielded a promising but not fundable score.
- Projects that leverage or supplement the Center's three R01-type research projects (details here <https://bit.ly/3bqqxlc>)

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals with a faculty or research scientist appointment in any department or school/division at any of The Southern California Center for Chronic Health Disparities in Latino Children partner institutions including the University of Southern California, University of Southern California, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, San Diego State University, University of Colorado Boulder, Its Sansum Diabetes Research Institute, California State Universities at Long Beach and Northridge, California Polytechnic State University, Cedars Sinai Hospital, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute, Public Health Foundation Enterprises and Kaiser Permanente. Students and postdoctoral trainees are not eligible to apply.

We will prioritize proposals from (1) NIH early-stage investigators and investigators new to the field, (2) self-identified members of populations that are under-represented in the research enterprise (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>), including: Black or African American,

Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, socioeconomically- disadvantaged, underserved rural population, and sexual and gender minorities, and (3) research teams that integrate multidisciplinary team members.

As appropriate, applications are encouraged to include a community outreach, engagement and/or dissemination component via use of community advisory boards, patient advocates, citizen scientists, with a dissemination plan for policy, decision makers, and key opinion leaders.

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

Interested applicants must provide a one-page LOI with NIH-formatted biosketches from all proposed key personnel. The letter should briefly describe: (i) the project goals/specific aims, (ii) the project team, including how key personnel fit with key eligibility criteria, and (iii) how the project will lead to larger extramurally-funded research. LOIs will be pre-reviewed by a scientific panel of Center members and affiliates for significance, innovation, and relevance to the Center. Up to 15 LOIs will be selected annually to advance to full submission. We intend to fund up to 8 projects. All of the LOIs selected to proceed to full proposals and led by junior researchers will be matched with an experienced mentor who is familiar with the field of research.

For questions about eligibility or other aspects please email Donna Spruijt-Metz at dmetz@usc.edu

To be considered for funding, LOIs [must be uploaded here](#) by midnight December 13th, 2021.

THE TIMELINE for this RFA is included below:

Southern California Center for Chronic Health Disparities in Latino Children and Families 2021-22 RFA TIMELINE	
11/15/21	Announcement of RFA
12/13/21	LOI Submission (1-2 page)
12/22/21	LOI Selection & Notification
1/5/22	Mentor Match
2/18/22	Full Proposal submission deadline
4/01/22	Award notification

THE FULL APPLICATION will include

- Project Abstract (300 words or less) – A brief summary of the project.
- Specific Aims (1 page).

- Research Strategy (4 pages MAXIMUM, not including references)
- Half-page lay summary of the application's content that limits overly technical verbiage
- Budget & Justification
- Grant Potential (1/2 page)
- Plan for Disseminating Research Results (1/2 page)