

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing

Dean's Research Seed Grant Program

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Guidelines for Submission of Application and Proposal Research Pilot Project

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing Dean's Research Seed Grant Program is pleased to announce that funds will be available to support pilot research projects for junior and established investigators which are consistent with the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) mission. The NINR mission is "promote and improve the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations. The Institute supports and conducts clinical and basic research and research training on health and illness across the lifespan to build the scientific foundation for clinical practice, prevent disease and disability, manage and eliminate symptoms caused by illness, and improve palliative and end-of-life care." Areas of particular interest for funding should be aligned with LSUHSC School of Nursing research priority areas/themes that will guide future areas of potential NINR funding. Additional priority will be given to applications that detail a structured research mentoring experience within the grant proposal. Investigators who are seeking to develop or market a patentable product or develop intellectual property are also encouraged to apply.

NINR Funding Themes:

The NINR strategic initiatives that drive the funding priorities can be located at

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/keythemes#.VNzHWBznaUk>.

LSUHSC-NO School of Nursing Research Priority Areas

The LSUHSC-NO School of Nursing research priority areas can be located at

<http://nursing.lsuhs.edu/Administration/Research/ResearchPriorityAreas.html>.

Funds Available

Up to five pilot research projects will be funded for a maximum of \$5,000 per application. It is expected that funded projects will be aimed at acquiring preliminary data for NINR R01/R21/R03 grant applications. Each grant award is for 1 year period, pilot project funds may, in certain cases, be considered renewable for a second year, provided the second year of funding is required for the investigator to meet the project goals/aims.

Eligibility Requirements

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be an investigator who is a full-time nursing school faculty member. Graduate students are not eligible to apply.

Application Procedures and Categories of Grant Projects

Applications are open for submission at any time. The full application must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to Dr. Demetrius J. Porche (dporch@lsuhsc.edu). Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Seed Grant Research Advisory Panel, which will include external members. The projects will be ranked based on scientific merit and best fit for LSUHSC School of Nursing and NINR overall research goals

Applications will be accepted from both junior and established investigators. Pilot grants will be categorized as:

- Junior Investigator Grant Application – a faculty member who is developing an independent research program. A requirement is that the PI must not have prior or ongoing extramural grant or contract

support as an independent investigator. Junior faculty are encouraged to identify two mentors who will assist in providing guidance and oversight to the PI.

- New Project Grant Established Investigator – a mid to senior level investigator who had a least one extramurally funded independent research project to pursue a new or novel research focus that is a departure from their ongoing current work.

Application Submission

The applications should be submitted using the PHS 398 forms for submission. Information to be included in the grant application proposal are:

1. Face Page (NIH Form Page 1)
2. Project Summary (Abstract, NIH Form Page 2)
3. Research Strategy (6 pages maximum for this section including references)
 - a. Specific Aims
 - b. Brief Background
 - c. Hypothesis as applicable
 - d. Significance and Innovation
 - e. Preliminary Data
 - f. Methods and Anticipated Results
 - g. Plans and timeline for submission of NINR grant
4. Literature cited
5. NIH Biographical Sketch for all investigators
6. Budget (NIH Form page 4). The following are not permitted: indirect costs, investigator salary, sub-awards, administrative support, publication costs, or subscriptions/memberships.

Research Seed Advisory Panel

The research seed advisory panel will provide a funding recommendation to the Dean on each project. This advisory panel will score each application using NINR scoring criteria.

The following are the NIH review criteria:

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Scored Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Additional Review Criteria. As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit and in providing an overall impact/priority score, but will not give separate scores for these items.

Protections for Human Subjects

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children

Vertebrate Animals

Biohazards

Resubmission

Renewal

Revision

Process

The following process will be followed for each seed grant submission:

1. Applicant submits the application to the Office of the Dean.
2. An initial evaluation will be conducted on the application by the Dean or Dean's designee and one senior faculty member appointed by the Dean. The initial evaluation will consist of:
 - a. Completeness of application
 - b. Alignment with HSC and SON mission and strategic initiatives
 - c. Alignment with NINR strategic initiatives
 - d. Alignment with SON research priority areas
3. Preliminary approval status will be provided. If approved the application will be submitted for peer review and scientific merit evaluation of the application by an advisory panel. Dean or designee will appoint an advisory panel consisting of two health science center internal faculty members and one external evaluator.
4. Advisory panel provides recommendation on funding.
5. Administrative Council reviews and provides recommendation to Dean regarding funding of application.