Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing

Dean's Research Seed Grant Program
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Application due date: Open Ended

Guidelines for Submission of Application

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 annually to support research projects for early-stage and established investigators which are consistent with the mission of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and professional nursing organizations that support clinical and basic nursing research. Additional priority will be given to early-stage investigators that describe 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 https://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/ninr-mission-and-strategic-plan .

Funds Available

 Research project will be funded for a maximum of $2,500 at the discretion of the Dean. It is expected that funded projects will be aimed at acquiring preliminary data for an external grant application. Each grant award is for a 1-year period.

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. SON faculty who are also graduate students may apply in their role as a faculty

member to develop their research program, but the research project cannot be identical to their DNP project, or dissertation.

Application Procedures and Categories of Grant Projects

Applications for this funding cycle currently have no due date. All applications must focus on health-related outcomes (either prevention research or clinical research). Nursing education research is not eligible.

The full application must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to the Office of Nursing Research, Scholarship and Science (ONRSS; NSONRSS@lsuhsc.edu). Submitted applications will be reviewed by the School of Nursing Research and Scholarly Endeavors Committee. The projects will be ranked based on scientific merit and best fit for the LSUHSC School of Nursing and advancing nursing science.

Applications will be accepted from both early-stage and established investigators. Grant applications will be categorized as:

- Early-Stage 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. It is highly encouraged that a mentor who will assist in providing guidance and oversight to the PI is identified.

- New Project Grant for Established Investigator – a mid to senior level investigator who had at least one extramurally funded independent research project to pursue a new or novel research focus that is a departure from their ongoing current work or to collect pilot data to improve the likelihood of a revised application being funded to support continued research trajectory.

Application Submission

The applications should be submitted using the PHS 398 forms for submission (see the following link:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

Information to be included in the application includes the following:

1. Face Page (NIH Form Page 1)
2. Project Summary (Abstract, NIH Form Page 2)
3. Research Strategy (4-6 pages maximum for this section)
   a. Specific Aims (1 page)
   b. Hypotheses as applicable
   c. Significance
   d. Innovation
   e. Preliminary Data (required for senior investigators)—approx. ½ page
   f. Methods, Timeline, and Anticipated Results
   g. Limitations and Alternative Strategies
   h. Description of structured mentored research experience (for early-stage investigators)—approx. ½ page
   i. Plans and timeline for submission of external grant
4. Protection of Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animals (as appropriate) and/or handling of biohazards (if applicable)—1 page
5. Literature cited
6. NIH Biographical Sketch for all investigators
7. Budget (NIH Form page 4). The following are not permitted: indirect costs, investigator salary, sub-awards, administrative support, publication costs, or subscriptions/memberships. Examples of acceptable requests for funds include research assistant time, assistance of biostatistician, participant stipends, and travel required to conduct the study.
8. Facilities and resources page.

Review

The SON Research and Scholarly Endeavors Committee will provide a funding recommendation to the Associate Dean for Nursing Research, Scholarship and Science on each project. This advisory panel will score each application using NIH scoring 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; Description of structured mentored research experience (for junior investigators only)

Process

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

1. Applicant submits the application to the ONRSS (NSONRSS@lsuhsc.edu).

2. An initial evaluation of the application will be made by the Associate Dean for Nursing Research, Scholarship, and Science. 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. Focus on health outcomes

3. If approved at this stage the application will be forwarded for peer review and scientific merit evaluation of the application by the SON Research and Scholarly Endeavors Committee.

4. Committee provides recommendation on funding.

Administrative Council reviews and provides recommendation to Dean regarding funding of applications for each