

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): InCHIP Rolling Seed Grants to Develop New Interdisciplinary Research Teams FY22

A. KEY DATES

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| • September 9, 2021 | FOA posted |
| • September 2021 – May 2022 | Applications accepted on a rolling basis (mechanism will close when available funds have been distributed) |
| • Within 3 weeks of submission | Applicants notified of award decision |

B. PURPOSE

UConn's Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP) offers Rolling Seed Grants for InCHIP affiliates who are faculty at UConn Storrs, UConn Health, and the regional campuses. These grants provide funds to support the development of new interdisciplinary research teams with high potential for securing external funding through activities such as, but not limited to, a one-day workshop or series of structured meetings to develop a research agenda and identify team leaders, conduct small pilot studies, or publish a high-impact literature review to establish a team's expertise in a new area. Any activity that has the potential to prepare new interdisciplinary teams to submit external grant applications through InCHIP in the area of human health, consistent with InCHIP's mission, will be considered under this mechanism. The proposal should not be an extension of a currently funded program but rather represent a new direction, and the team should include some members who have not previously collaborated on a research project, grant application, or publication. Successful teams should be cross-department (at least 2 departments) and ideally cross-college (at least 2 colleges) or cross-campus (team members from UConn and UConn Health) and be comprised of researchers with a range of seniority and experience. Awards are typically one year in duration.

C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Awards ranging from \$500-\$5000 are available in this competition.
- There are no deadlines. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and it is anticipated that up to \$20,000 will be awarded during FY22.
- Any external grant proposal that is written with support from a Rolling Seed Grant must be submitted through InCHIP.
- Funds may be used to support expenses such as: workshop expenses including food, room rentals, external speakers fees/travel if justified to move the team forward, and copying of workshop materials; routine research-related expenses such as payment of participants, copying of research material (e.g., questionnaires, consent forms), renting and purchasing of specialized equipment (e.g., digital recorder), or paying research assistants with specialized skills necessary for the proposed project (e.g., fluency in Spanish); publication fees; and other activities to build a new teams.

- **Seed grant funds may not be used for the following:**
 - Principal Investigator's, Co-Investigator's, or any faculty member's salary.
 - Living expenses.
 - Service/maintenance contracts on equipment.
 - Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations.
 - Institutional memberships in professional organizations.
 - Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries.
 - Investigator training costs, including tuition.
 - Routine office equipment (e.g., computers).
 - Student tuition and/or fees.
- InCHIP may request modifications to the budget during the review process.

D. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The proposed research for which an interdisciplinary team is being formed/developed, must focus on human health and be consistent with InCHIP's mission, which can be found [here](#).
2. The investigator must have an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, PharmD), have an eligible faculty appointment (see below) at UConn Storrs, UConn Health, or one of the regional campuses, and must be eligible to submit external grants through InCHIP or UConn Health.
3. Eligible faculty appointments are tenured or tenure-track faculty, in-residence research faculty, clinical faculty, other research faculty, and research scientists/scholars.
4. Ineligible faculty appointments are post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants and research associates, visiting titles, and adjunct faculty.
5. Graduate students are not eligible for this opportunity.
6. The applicant is required to be an approved InCHIP Faculty Affiliate, or must submit an application to become an InCHIP Faculty Affiliate prior to funding. The InCHIP Affiliation application form is available [here](#). Please allow at least two weeks for approval.
7. If funded, late changes to the project's objectives and budget will require approval from relevant InCHIP staff.
8. An individual may only submit one proposal for this competition as the Principal Investigator (PI). Multiple PIs are permitted for this seed grant opportunity.

E. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed within approximately 3 weeks.
2. Proposals should be submitted via email to Amy Gorin (amy.gorin@uconn.edu).
3. The Rolling Seed Grant application (maximum of 2 single-spaced pages, not including references, timeline, and budget) requires the following information:
 - a. Contact information (name, degree, department, address, and email) for PI(s).
 - b. A description of the planned activities, how these activities will support the development of a new interdisciplinary research team, the types of funding mechanisms the new team might pursue (e.g., R21, R01, Center Grants), and a timeline and budget for the proposed activities. A list of researchers who will participate in the proposed activities should be included (with letters of support), but this list does not need to be exhaustive as one of the

- goals of the proposal may be to identify new team members. The 2-page limit does **not** include the reference list, timeline, budget, or any letters of support from participating researchers. Appendices are not permitted.
- c. Letters of support from co-investigators should include a statement that they will participate in the proposed activities.
 4. Seed grant proposals are **not** required to be routed through InCHIP or Sponsored Program Services (SPS).
 5. Investigators will be notified via email whether their proposal has been awarded funding.

F. REVIEW CRITERIA

Priority for funding will be based on the following review criteria, in no particular order:

- Scientific merit of the research idea.
- Extent to which a successful outcome is considered likely and any risk in outcome is outweighed by the potential benefits of success.
- Extent to which the research area is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot data.
- Importance of the potential research question to external funders and the feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent proposal to external funders within 18 months of funding.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).
- Relevance to the mission and strategic priorities of InCHIP.

G. AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

The awarded PIs are responsible for obtaining all required approvals for the research from their relevant IRB(s). Please visit the [UConn IRB website](#) for more information on IRB approval for research conducted at the UConn Storrs Campus, the five regional campuses, the School of Law and the School of Social Work. For more information on IRB approval for research conducted at UConn Health, please visit the [UConn Health IRB website](#).

Awardees will be required to submit a brief progress report after 6 months, a final report at the conclusion of the project or award period, and periodic check-ins over the following 5 years to track external grant applications/awards stemming from the seed grant. Changes to the project's objectives, PIs, and budget will require prior approval from InCHIP staff.

Detailed awardee instructions/requirements will be distributed to seed grant winners when they are notified of the award decisions. All awardee requirements described above are subject to change in accordance with updated institutional procedures (e.g., routing requirements).

H. CONTACT

For questions not addressed in this FOA or on [our seed grant webpage](#), please contact Amy Gorin (amy.gorin@uconn.edu).