

Request for Applications (RFA) Pilot Project Grants funded by the Chicago D-CFAR

The Chicago Developmental Center for AIDS Research (D-CFAR) is pleased to announce a pilot project grant program. Eligible applicants are those at the three Chicago D-CFAR institutions; Rush University Medical Center; University of Illinois at Chicago; Cook County Health and Hospital System.

Awards are limited to the following categories of principal investigators

1. pilot awards to foster the careers of early stage HIV/AIDS investigators,
2. pilot awards to established investigators in other fields who wish to expand into HIV/AIDS research,
3. pilot awards given to investigators proposing to forge new interdisciplinary collaborations to promote research in HIV/AIDS

Applications to be funded are those that are judged to have the greatest likelihood of generating pilot data that will lead to external (e.g. NIH) funding.

Applications may be in any research area in HIV/AIDS. However, applicants are encouraged to submit grants in one of the three Chicago D-CFAR emphasis areas; HIV and aging; HIV and women; Drug abuse and HIV.

This cycle of review the D-CFAR anticipates funding 3 grants, of up to \$25,000 direct costs each (no indirects allowed). The deadline is **May 17, 2009**. Another round of applications will be solicited for Nov. 15, 2010.

For further details and updates go to www.chicagocfar.org. Applications will be submitted to **Administrator@chicagocfar.org** by **6pm** on the deadline date.

Application Details

Only submissions containing all of the following forms compiled into one pdf in this order will be accepted.

1. Abstract (398 form page 2-use only the first page of this form with the principal investigators name and the title of the proposal (70 character limit) prominently displayed).
2. Research Plan (5 page limit, use 398 continuation pages). This contains specific aims, background, preliminary studies and experimental design. References are not included in the 5 page limit. In the specific aims section, clearly state the type of investigator that is applying (see the 3 types above). Also summarize how PI and any other critical personnel will be involved. A brief statement of specific planned research grant submissions based on results obtained from the proposed research is strongly required.

3. NIH-style Biographical sketch of PI (3 page limit, use NIH 398 form). Up to two additional bio-sketches can be added for key personnel.
4. NIH-style modular budget and budget justification (one page limit).

Use current NIH forms PHS 398 (Revised 11/2007)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

For applications that use human subjects or animals, approval from the IRB or IACUC committees at the appropriate institutions will have to be obtained before funds are released, but this can be done on a just-in-time basis.

Investigators can submit only one application as PI for each deadline.

Further Information for Pilot Project Applications

The goals of the pilot project awards are to make awards to the most promising applications in order to promote successful national funding.

Early stage investigators definition. ESIs are New Investigators who are within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or within 10 years of completing their medical residency at the time they apply for the pilot project award. Further, the Principal Investigator (PI) is considered a New Investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully as PI for a significant NIH independent research award. NIH awards that **do not** disqualify one for eligibility are F awards, K awards, R03, R15.

Requirements of awardees;

1. Interview. At the end of grant period (one year), awardees will be interviewed to determine if the pilot funds helped in creating submission of applications to national agencies such as NIH, AmFAR, Gates and other foundations. Also, success of the applications (whether they were funded or not) will be determined.
2. Report. A written one page report will be submitted detailing research progress. Productivity of research activities stemming from the pilot award should be listed including the number of research presentations at national or international meetings, grant submissions and publications. Also, research progress that might not be discernible by these objective measures should be listed (e.g. new laboratory methods mastered, new survey instruments developed, new linkages established to access populations of interest, etc.).
3. Presentation. The developmental grant awardees will also be required to give a presentation during the Chicago D-CFAR yearly retreat detailing research performed under the award.

The pilot project awards will be up to \$25,000 for one year of research. Application can be made competitively for a second year of funding.

Resubmission of unfunded applications will be allowed at later submission dates, but only if applicants address the criticisms contained in the previous reviews and summarize how the criticisms were addressed in a one page introduction.

How To Make one PDF From Your Documents

1. Produce each of your 4 files (abstract, research plan, biosketch and budget) in Microsoft Word.
2. Convert each file into a pdf by selecting “print” while in Word and then selecting pdf (on Macs this is on the left lower corner of the print dialog box; on PCs while in the print dialog box select the type of printer).
3. Assemble the four pdfs into one pdf in Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Pro.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- Is a face page required with an authorized signature required?
No.

- Are Facilities and Administrative Costs allowed in addition to the direct costs?
For Rush and Cook County, NO – these institutions have waived the indirect costs for these pilot projects and the investigators will be able to use the entire amount of the award as direct costs for their research. For the University of Illinois, you as the investigator must notify UIC that indirects are not allowed under this mechanism to avoid paying indirects.

- Although the budget is modular, will justifications be required?
Personnel budget justification is required.

- Are there any budgetary items being disallowed?
Since the budget is modular, itemization is not necessary.

- Who is functioning as the Program Officer for the Pilot Project Grants?
Dr. Gregory Spear and Dr. Ronald Hershow are available for scientific questions. You may email your science questions to them respectively at gspear@rush.edu and rchersho@uic.edu.

- Should the NIH formatting guidelines be used in regards to font type and size and margins?
YES. Please follow the NIH formatting guidelines and use the appropriate form pages as indicated in the RFA.