



**Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity
Health Equity Research Scholars Program
Request for Applications**

November 2021

The Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity is requesting applications for the inaugural RBIHE Health Equity Research Scholars Program to support the expansion of researchers conducting innovative community-partnered health equity research addressing health across the lifespan. The Scholars Program supports RUSH faculty members to develop a program of research that will lead to the identification of evidence-based approaches to improve health equity. Research topics within the following areas are of particular interest:

- Development of interventions to improve health equity
- Implementation of interventions to improve health equity
- Examination of the influence of environment, social determinants, and other underlying mechanisms that lead to differences in health outcomes, in order to inform future intervention and program development

The Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity will facilitate linking Scholars with community partners to ensure research is informed by members of the research target population.

Generalized Criteria:

- Faculty position at RUSH; rank of assistant professor or higher preferred
- Research that will result in at least one submission for external grant funding by the end of the award period; NIH funding preferred
- Research that focuses on one or more health disparity populations, defined as racial/ethnic minority, low socio-economic status, rural, and sexual and gender minority populations in the United States.
- A plan for engaging community partners; community partners include members of the research target population and must include health disparity populations

Funding Amounts

- Scholar: up to 0.3 FTE, with flexibility of allocation over the 16-month funding period
- Mentor: 0.05 FTE (salary coverage or stipend)
- Up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of community partner collaboration time, pilot data collection and other research-related costs
- Scholars are encouraged to apply for research funding from the Chicago Chronic Condition Equity Network (C3EN) P50 center (six \$25-50K awards will be granted per year)

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include the following components (Ariel 11 point font, 1 inch margins):

1. NIH Biosketch (5 pages or less) – either current or new (2022) format accepted.

2. A cover letter (4 pages or less) that addresses:
 - a. Why you are a good candidate, and how this award fits into your career plan;
 - b. Description of your research project aims (e.g., study question/hypothesis), including how the project addresses health equity;
 - c. How you will engage a community partner;
 - d. Potential for external funding;
 - e. Budgetary needs beyond salary coverage, including (limited to \$10,000);
 - f. Proposed timeline with key milestones.
3. Letter of support from the Department Chairperson.
4. Letter of support and NIH biosketch from the proposed research mentor. The letter should explain specific commitment to fellow and mentorship plan.

Proposal Submissions

Proposals are due on January 3, 2022. Please compile a single PDF document and submit to [RBIHE - Health Equity Research Scholars Application](#)

Timeline

Application Period Opens: November 15, 2021
Submission Closes: January 3, 2022 at 5pm CT
Award Notice: February 1, 2022
Funding Period: 16 months (March 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Proposal Review

A review panel containing noncompeting researchers will review all applications.
Criteria include:

- Applicant potential for securing external funding
- Alignment of applicant's program of research with improving health equity
- Plan for engaging community partners
- Mentorship plan

The review panel will make recommendations for funding to the RBIHE Research Co-Chairpersons. Successful applicants will be notified via email not later than February 1, 2022.

Questions about the RFA or submission process should be emailed to [Madeline Moody](#), Administrative Project Assistant, Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How many scholars will be funded?

Up to 2 scholars will be funded for the inaugural Health Equity Scholars Program.

Is the FTE coverage of 30% flexible during the funding period?

Yes, the FTE coverage could vary over the funding period to accommodate other responsibilities. For example, the Scholar could have 15% FTE coverage for March – June 2022 and 35% coverage for July 2022 – June 2023.

Does the Health Equity Scholar need to focus on any particular population?

Scholars need to focus on one or more health disparity populations, defined as racial/ethnic minority, low socio-economic status, rural, and sexual and gender minority populations.

Does the Health Equity Scholar need to focus on the West Side of Chicago?

No, research does not need to focus on the West Side of Chicago.