



Rustbelt Center for AIDS Research

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Solicitation for HIV/AIDS-Related Developmental Project Grants

The **RUSTBELT CFAR** is inviting applications for developmental project grants focused on ending the HIV epidemic (EHE) research, although applications in other disciplines will also be considered.

EHE proposals should focus on one of the EHE pillars including but not limited to the following areas:

1. Novel approaches to identifying persons with HIV or at risk for HIV (Diagnose)
2. Novel approaches to treat HIV, especially in populations that are hard to reach (Treat)
3. Novel approaches to prevent HIV infection (Protect)
4. Novel approaches to understanding or responding to outbreaks, active transmission cycles. (Respond)

Top priority populations for EHE research, as identified by the Cuyahoga County Health Department, include: men who have sex with men (MSM); men who have sex with men (MSM) of Color; youth ages 13-24; people with HIV/AIDS; persons who have been newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS; persons who are not virally suppressed; and traditionally underserved populations including communities of color, women, infants, children, and youth.

Application Criteria:

- Early career investigators (Senior Research Associates, Instructors, Assistant Professors)
- Established investigators new to HIV/AIDS research
- Investigators in Uganda
- All applications must propose use of at least one RUSTBELT CFAR Core or SWG. **We encourage applicants to discuss their research ideas with CFAR Core/SWG Directors before submission.**

Budget and Project Period: 5 awards of **\$50,000** (total costs; no indirect cost recovery) will be funded for 1 year.

Key Dates:

Application Due Date: **March 15, 2024**

Peer Review: **April 2024**

Notification of Award Date: **April 25, 2024**

Anticipated Start Date: **May 1, 2024**

Required Application Components and Application Format:

- Face Page (NIH PHS 398)
- Budget and Budget Justification (Funds are for research supplies and staff salary support)
- NIH biosketches for key personnel
- Proposal Narrative (sections **A – C**, 3-page total)
 - A. Specific Aim(s)
 - B. Significance & Innovation
 - C. Research Design and Methods
 - D. Plans for future funding (1/2 page)
 - E. References Cited (not included in page limit)

Submission: All proposals must be submitted electronically via email, **as a single PDF file**, to Michelle Leszczewski at leszczewskimn@upmc.edu.

Questions: Please contact Dr. Alan Levine (alan.levine@case.edu) or Dr. Nicolas Sluis-Cremer (nps2@pitt.edu) with any questions.