



Application Submission Deadlines
2023 Cycle 1

Letter of Intent: October 25, 2023

Formal Proposal: December 18, 2023

Earliest Start Date: March 1, 2024

PILOT PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

HIV Research

The UCLA-CDU CFAR and the UCLA AIDS Institute are accepting applications for pilot projects to fund HIV-related research with an emphasis on supporting new investigators and established investigators who are new to HIV research. Each application should involve an experienced HIV researcher, for the purpose of guidance and building a fruitful collaboration leading to future competitive funding.

Maximum request per applicant: \$60,000 Direct Costs

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: October 25, 2023

Applicants whose letters of intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal.

→ Formal proposals will then be due by December 18, 2023.

→ Applicants will be notified of a decision by end-February 2024.

The project period will be up to two years, with the earliest start date of March 1, 2024.

Investigator Eligibility

- Applicants must fit criteria as NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators, or be an established investigator in another area who has not had R01 or equivalent funding in HIV research.
 - In the letter of intent (LOI), all NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators must describe their commitment to a career in research and plans to become independently-funded, especially if an applicant seeking funding for basic science does not have lab space assigned in their name.
- All applicants must have a Co-Investigator (without salary) with a track record of peer-reviewed HIV funding; a list of some (but not all) qualifying Co-Investigators and their areas of expertise can be found here. If you need assistance in being connected with potential collaborators, we would be happy to facilitate networking. Please contact us with this request at UCLA-CDU.CFAR@mednet.ucla.edu.
- Projects that plan to enroll participants in Los Angeles must identify a community-based organization with a demonstrated background in HIV/AIDS with which they will partner, or that will serve in a consulting role.
- Qualifying applicants in all series levels are eligible to apply for this funding mechanism as long as the faculty member has UCLA or CDU Principal Investigator Status or is eligible for an exemption per UCLA Policy 900: Principal Investigator Eligibility. If qualifying via an exemption, you will need to submit a letter from your Division Chief or Department Chair verifying eligibility.

Funding Criteria/Guidelines

- Projects focused on any aspect of HIV research from all research disciplines will be considered (basic, clinical, behavioral, policy, implementation science, etc.) including, but not limited to, work at the intersection of HIV and infectious complications, HIV and non-communicable diseases, and HIV and aging. Proposals will be scored based on innovation and potential for growth into a competitive program for future outside funding; as well the potential of the award to contribute to career development for New or Early-Stage Investigators.
- Proposals should outline clearly how research funded by the pilot project could be translated into a larger project, particularly an NIH R01 level grant, an R34, an R21, or equivalent funding by a non-governmental source (e.g., amfAR, pharmaceutical company, or private foundation).
- Contributions of the HIV research-experienced Co-Investigator must be delineated in the application, such as conceptual guidance, technical/methodologic guidance, assistance with other collaborations, career development mentorship, etc.
- Evidence of investigator productivity will be considered during the review. This includes, but is not limited to, evidence of ongoing applications for outside funding by PI, funding received as a result of any previous CFAR pilot project(s), and PI publication record, especially if the applicant is a previous CFAR pilot project recipient.
- Extra consideration will be given to projects that address and/or have clear implications for issues of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Competitive applications with collaborations between multi-sites of UCLA-CDU CFAR affiliated institutions (Harbor-UCLA, VAGLAHS, UCLA Vine Street Clinic, UCLA CARE Center, MLK OASIS Clinic, Drew CARES, etc.) will be prioritized for funding.
- Please note that human subjects younger than 18 are classified as children (per NIH guidelines), and additional approvals such as informed consent will be required before funding can be released.
- International components of a project cannot be initiated without NIH International Clearance. More information can be found [here](#).
- The award amount will be Total Costs = Direct Costs + 26% F&A costs. If the application involves a foreign organization as a subaward, the F&A costs for that subaward will receive funding at a fixed rate of 8% of the modified total direct costs*.
**exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards in excess of \$25,000.*
- Pilot projects will be evaluated by a peer-review committee comprised of UCLA / CDU faculty and community advisory board members.
- Annual progress reports and end of project reports will be required.
- The UCLA-CDU CFAR must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations regarding the successfully funded project.
- Funds will be transferred to successful applicants after all appropriate approvals (IRB, ARC, human subjects' certification, etc.) have been provided. Although IRB approval is not required prior to application, release of funding will be contingent on receipt of IRB approval for proposed project.

UCLA-CDU CFAR Core facilities are available, on a recharge basis.

More information can be found on the [UCLA-CDU CFAR website](#).

- **Core C: Centralized Laboratory Support** (Grace Aldrovandi, galdrovandi@mednet.ucla.edu)
Provides laboratory expertise or lab space and instrumentation to conduct virologic, immunologic, and microbiome/genomics studies.
- **Core D: Humanized Mouse and Gene Therapy** (Scott Kitchen, skitchen@ucla.edu)
Provides humanized mice, access to BSL2+ vivarium facilities, expertise in humanized mouse models, and further development of improved humanized mouse models.
- **Core E: Community Engagement and Clinical Informatics** (Dilara Uskup, dilarauskup@cdrewu.edu or Aziza Lucas-Wright annalucaswright@cdrewu.edu)
Provides advanced clinical informatics analytic support to public health and community providers and clinics in Los Angeles who are on the frontline of the epidemic.
- **Core F: Clinical Science** (Kara Chew, kchew@mednet.ucla.edu)
Provides a single portal of collated services to support investigators and promote rapid study implementation, foster scientific collaboration, and expand training opportunities for new investigators, while efficiently leveraging existing NIH-funded resources at UCLA.
- **SWG: Translational Research on Substance Use** (Pamina Gorbach, pgorbach@ucla.edu)
Provides assistance in developing novel assessment tools that take into consideration barriers to social determinants of health, as well as interpersonal, cultural, and societal influences linked with substance use and misuse among people living with HIV (PWH) or are at risk.

Instructions for Letters of Intent

Letters of intent must be no longer than **two pages**, and must include the following:

- Name, degrees, and full contact information (email, phone, mailing address) of PI and all Co-Investigator(s)
- Justification of eligibility including discussion of the applicant's commitment to a career in research and plans to become independently funded if New or Early-Stage Investigator
- Letter from Division Chief or Department Chair if required per Investigator Eligibility (i.e., if PI exception is needed)
- Proposed Specific Aims and brief methods associated with each aim.
- Brief summary of PI/Co-Investigator experience conducting research including, but not limited to, HIV-related research.
- Total amount of funding requested.
- NIH biosketches of PI/Co-Investigator(s) (does not count towards the 2-page limit)

Letters of intent must be received via email to UCLA-CDU.CFAR@mednet.ucla.edu.

→ Letters of intent must be received **by October 25, 2023**.

Instructions for formal proposals will then be forwarded to applicants whose letters of intent are approved.

→ Formal proposals will then be due **by December 18, 2023**.

Successful applicant PIs must provide their NIH Commons ID number. During the award period and for up to ten years post-award, awardees must provide the following information to the UCLA-CDU CFAR by November 30th of each year: (1) all publications that resulted from CFAR-supported research with PubMed ID, and (2) all PHS and non-PHS federal support that contributed to or resulted from the CFAR-supported research.

Questions about eligibility, letters of intent, or formal proposals can be directed to UCLA-CDU.CFAR@mednet.ucla.edu.