



Application Submission Deadlines
2024 Cycle 2

Letter of Intent: September 13, 2024

Formal Proposal: November 15, 2024

Earliest Start Date: February 3, 2025

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/early-stage investigators and established investigators who are new to HIV research.

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

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: September 13, 2024

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

→ Formal proposals will then be due by November 15, 2023.

→ Applicants will be notified of a decision by February 2025.

The project period is for two years, with the earliest start date of February 3, 2025.

Investigator Eligibility

- Applicants must fit criteria as NIH defined Early Stage or New Investigators, or be an established investigator in another area who has not had R01 or equivalent funding in HIV research (i.e., new to HIV research).
 - In the letter of intent (LOI), all NIH defined Early Stage and/or 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 with HIV research experience, we would be happy to facilitate networking. Please contact us with this request at least three weeks before the deadline 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 individual has UCLA or CDU Principal Investigator Status or is eligible for an exemption per UCLA Policy 900: Principal Investigator Eligibility or CDU Policy 602.17: Eligibility to Submit Proposals for Extramural Support. If qualifying via an exemption, you will need to submit a letter from your Division Chief or Department Chair verifying eligibility (UCLA) or from the VP for Research (CDU).

Funding Criteria/Guidelines

- Projects focused on any aspect of HIV research from all research disciplines will be considered (basic, clinical, behavioral, policy, implementation science, social science etc.) including, but not limited to, work at the intersection of HIV and infectious complications, HIV and non-communicable diseases, HIV and substance use disorders, 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 or those established investigators who are new to HIV research.
- 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.
- We strongly encourage projects that address and/or have clear implications for issues of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Competitive applications with collaborations between multiple sites within the UCLA-CDU CFAR network (Harbor-UCLA, VAGLAHS, UCLA Vine Street Clinic, UCLA CARE Center, MLK OASIS Clinic, Drew CARES, etc.) will be prioritized for funding.
- International components of a project cannot be initiated without NIH International Clearance. More information can be found [here](#). If funded, awarded PIs will work closely with CFAR staff to complete this required process.
- 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.*
- Applications 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 from all awarded PIs.
- The UCLA-CDU CFAR and the UCLA AIDS Institute 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** (Art Catapang, lab manager acatapang@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). Please clearly identify the status of any/all individuals who qualify as a new investigator or early-stage investigator and/or who are new to HIV research.
- 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 and 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 September 13, 2024.**

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

→ Formal proposals will then be due **by November 15, 2024.**

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.