



Funding Opportunity

Precision Health Initiative Community-University Partnership Grants

Who? Partnerships between Communities and UVA Investigators who seek to study Community-Based Precision Health topics. See additional partnership information below.

What? 12-month community-engaged, precision health-related research projects (all topics considered), up to \$25,000 of grant support may be requested. At least two projects will be funded.

Where? All projects must be located in Virginia. Community organization must be located in Virginia as well.

When? Pre-proposal informational Zoom meetings will be held on June 20, 2024 at 9:00 ET and on July 1, 2024 at 12:00 ET. If you or a team member are unable to attend, accommodations can be made. The Letter of Intent is due by July 19, 2024 by 11:59PM. If invited based on your LOI, the full proposal is due September 6, 2024 11:59PM. Notification of award will be October 4, 2024. The anticipated project start is October 20, 2024.

How? The Request for Proposals (below) has all the information needed to apply (Letter of Intent and Full Proposal).



Research Funding Announcement (RFA)

Precision Health Community-University Partnership Grants

Dates: Letters of Intent (LOI) are required, and due by July 19 each year. Feedback and invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent by August 1. Proposals are accepted once a year on September 6 and will then be reviewed. Notice of awards will be made by October 4, with funding expected to begin by October 20 of each year.

Internal Submission Deadline for LOI: July 19

Internal Submission Deadline for Proposal: September 6

Details:

Administrator(s): Grand Challenges, Precision Health Initiative (PHI)

Category: Faculty Collaborative Grants

Cycle: FY2025

Topic Area of the research: Precision Health – Community-University Partnerships

Number of Possible Awardees: Minimum 2

Total funding available per Awardee: Up to \$25,000 in total direct costs over 12 months (1 year).

Description:

Purpose of Community University Partnership Grants: This funding opportunity aims to expand and/or build Community-University Partnerships related to Precision Health Research. Community-engaged research approaches are founded on the idea that community members residing in the research environments have the best understanding of the health issues under study, and therefore, communities should have direct involvement in decisions impacting their lives. This funding opportunity **seeks applications that aim to reduce health disparities and improve health among communities that experience poorer health outcomes and/or have been historically excluded from research engagement opportunities** (e.g. racial/ethnic minorities, rural communities, women, low-income families).

Proposed community-engaged research projects should address a wide range of health-related topics, with a **focus on needs identified through a community health prioritization process or targeted needs assessment**. Projects may target direct health outcomes (e.g. improved screening rates, glycemic control, physical activity, diet, etc.) and/or social determinants of health (e.g. socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions, etc.) at a community or population scale. (See additional information at the end of this RFP describing Community Engaged Research and Social Determinants of Health).

Proposals with the greatest potential to lead to sustainable, collaborative research projects will be given priority. This funding is designed to support:

- Ongoing Community-University partnerships or Creating new Community-University partnerships.
- Research to explore or address health disparities and/or health equity. For definitions, please see: <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/minority-health-and-health-disparities-definitions.html> and <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11121-022-01462-5>
- Efforts to inform or evaluate community/population health interventions. These can include, but are not limited to: school-based, community-based, toxic exposure events, etc.
 - Etiologic research without a potential to inform a population-level intervention will be considered non-responsive.

Projects types may include (but are not limited to):

- New research projects based on community need
- Adapting an existing community-focused research project to address a new population
- Adding a new specific aim or additional goal to a currently funded project
- Efforts to identify community partners, community experts
- The formation of a Community Advisory Board
- Community engagement: Specimen collection surveys

About the Precision Health Initiative: The Precision Health Initiative (PHI) at UVA supports transdisciplinary research and training to optimize health outcomes for individuals and entire populations, across a wide range of complex and chronic diseases. While *Precision Medicine* measures genes and disease factors to help doctors identify unique disease risks and find treatments that will work best for a person, *Precision Health* adds assessment of environments and lifestyles and identifies treatments or prevention strategies that will work best with the fewest side effects, based on each person's unique background and conditions. ***Precision Health for Populations is even broader, including precision medicine, disease prevention, and health promotion for whole communities, outside doctor's offices, or hospital settings.*** *Precision Health for Populations* collects data that can identify how everyone can protect their own family's health, and strategies experts can take to promote health and well-being at individual, family, community, state, or national levels. The goal of the PHI is to promote research that will engage populations in Virginia to generate new discoveries that could improve the health of all Virginians.

PHI-supported faculty will address the challenges of acquiring, managing, and studying large scale population-level data on health, and other layers of data that surround people and communities including educational experiences, environmental exposures, personal or family behaviors such as diet, physical activity, sleep, employment, and healthcare access/utilization, and other community characteristics that affect health.

PHI scientists will develop and extend equitable partnerships with communities, policymakers, and stakeholders around Central Virginia to address two initial focus areas, cancer and youth mental health across Virginia, through community-University partnerships focused on addressing health inequities in these areas. Some PHI scientists will lay the groundwork required to create cohorts of Virginia residents

willing to be followed across their lifespan by contributing multiple “layers” of data from existing and future medical records, educational records, community records, and lifestyle and behavioral data.

Award Amount and Term: The maximum allowed budget is up to \$25,000 of total direct costs per project per year, for 1 year. A portion of these funds must support a community engagement activity (example: community or environmental assessments, hosting a meeting for a Community Advisory Board – funds may come from UVA’s budget, but would count towards community engagement activities). The detailed project budgets must demonstrate the meaningful allocation of funds to both the Community Organization and to the UVA Investigators.

Eligible Applicants: UVA faculty member or team, and at least one community leader or group.

Definition(s) of Community Partners: This includes state and community government agencies, community leaders, residents, businesses, educators, parents, and students. If a group of interest is not listed here, please email clh4he@virginia.edu to ask if your partner is eligible.

Review Criteria:

- Standard NIH Scoring (numerical scoring system) with consideration for:
 - Extent of collaboration with the study team
 - Level of involvement with communities
 - Potential for ongoing partnership with community partner
 - Level of expressed commitment to community engaged health disparities research and/or diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
 - Alignment to goals and mission of the Precision Health Initiative
 - Potential for future funding

Letter of Intent Requirements: A LOI (1- page maximum) is required in advance of a full application. The LOI needs to describe the UVA Faculty and Community Partner(s), title of proposal, estimated budget, and brief description of planned activities. It is due by 11:59 PM on July 15, 2024 and should be emailed to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu). Confirmation of LOI receipt will be sent within 24 hours. Feedback and invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent by August 1.

Proposal Requirements: Unless otherwise noted, use NIH formatting guidelines and standard forms. Submit all components as a single PDF file to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu) by 11:59 PM, September 6, 2024. Confirmation of proposal receipt will be sent within 24 hours.

All applications must include:

1. **Lay abstract:** Describe the project for a general audience in 2-3 sentences.

2. **Biosketches, or up-to 5 page resume** if available, for all key personnel (including Community Partners)

3. **Budget** (use the attached template) and justification
 - a. Funds must be spent within 12 months of the project start date. Cost extensions are not permitted.
 - b. Allowable costs include UVA staff salary and fringe (please limit faculty support), trainee support, Community Organization personnel salary and fringe, materials/supplies, participant incentives, travel necessary for conducting the research, and software. Funds may also be used for: food, books, and subscriptions.
 - i. If you have questions about allowable costs, please contact Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu)
 - ii. The PHI reviewers have discretion over final budget approval. Funded projects may be asked to adjust budget line items.
 - c. No indirect costs are allowed to be included in the budget and a portion of these funds **must** support a community engagement activity.
 - d. Department Chair or Associate Dean's approval is also needed specifying that they approve the application and understand that indirect rates cannot be included in the budget for the application. A signature from Department Chair or Associate Dean is required on Page 1 of the budget.
 - e. Separate Budget and Budget Justifications should be submitted for UVA Team and the Community Organization (use subaward sheet on budget template)
 - f. For questions about budget preparation, please reach out to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu).

4. **Research Proposal:** 5-page limit to include the following (Arial 11 point font):
 - **Specific Aims** (one page)
 - **Background and Significance:** Describe the health outcome(s) or social determinant(s) of health that the community-university partnership will address and its relevance to the communities involved. Describe the community health assessment report/tool used, the research question, and how the partnership determined the proposed research question.
 - **Innovation/Impact:** Describe how the proposed research will benefit the communities involved and how the results of the study will be communicated to them. Describe strategies to disseminate results and "lessons learned" to researchers and to the communities involved in the study. Describe how the proposed activities could lead to sustained research collaborations and/or additional funding opportunities and plans for sustaining partnership efforts.
 - **Research Strategy/Approach**
 - **Community Collaboration Plan:** Describe the extent of the current community collaborations relevant to the proposed work and how the proposed work will enhance existing or create new community-University collaborations.

- **Future Directions:** Describe how this award will provide necessary data to continue and expand upon the Community-University Partnership. If possible, please describe how this partnership could lead to additional research and/or to an intervention in the community, including plans for future applications to specific agencies.
5. **Data Management Plan:** In addition to typical data management specifics, please also address how the study and/or data will be registered with UVA's Research Data Enclave (see below for details, one page limit). If you do not plan to collect data in this proposal, we still ask that investigators register their project with the Research Data Enclave, so that details are available for future data collection. Additional information about the Research Data Enclave below.
 6. **Timeline/Milestones** (separate one page limit, with key deliverables and project milestones).
 7. **Expertise, Structure of the Study Team, and Project Management Plan (one page limit):** Describe any previous experience that the partners have working together, working with the community identified, and/or conducting community-engaged research. Describe the expertise that the different partners will bring to the partnership. Describe the capacity of the Community Organization and Research Institution team members to successfully implement the community-engaged project.
 8. **Cited References** (no page limit).
 9. **Facilities and Other Resources:** describe services at UVA that will be used for the project, if relevant (one page limit).
 10. **Letter of support** from community partner(s) involved in this proposal (no page limit).

Research Data Enclave

The Research Data Enclave is a system for registering studies, so that different research projects are indexable and discoverable by the broader community, as well as a repository for data that allows for cross-study data integration (e.g. integrating environmental heat indices into a EHR based dataset). This system is still being developed by the iThriv group, and the specific details are not yet set in stone. While we encourage you to think about depositing your eventual data into the system (and to be clear, you still have complete control over what is made public or kept private/accessible only to you), at minimum we require that you eventually register the study in the Enclave. This registration will consist of a description of the study, as well as a detailed listing what data was collected as well as some aggregate demographic data. We are happy to work with you on the details of this when the time comes, and for your application, stating that you will register the study in the Enclave, as well as providing any details as to standardized data models you might be using (i.e. OMOP or NIH Common Data Elements) in your Data Management Plan, would be sufficient. Contact our Data Science Liaison, Teague Henry (ycp6wm@virginia.edu) if you have any further questions about the Research Data Enclave.