District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR)
Rapid Response Research Awards on the Monkeypox (MPX)-HIV Interface
Request for Applications
DUE SEPTMBER 30, 2022

Background

In response to the Monkeypox (MPX) outbreak, the District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR) is announcing a rapid response cycle of pilot awards on the MPX–HIV interface. These awards will provide pilot funds to early stage and new HIV investigators to collect preliminary data that will explore the scientific relationships between the MPX and HIV epidemics with a focus on Washington, DC.

Scope

- Projects must focus on the MPX-HIV interface – applications on MPX alone will be considered non-responsive.
- Applications in a wide range of scientific disciplines are encouraged including basic science, clinical and epidemiologic studies, and social and behavioral science.
- Clinical trials and studies involving new drugs, treatments, or devices cannot be funded by the DC CFAR.
- Applicants should 1) demonstrate how their research project relates to the MPX and HIV epidemics in DC; 2) describe how they will use DC CFAR Core services in their proposed research projects; and 3) provide information about how the results from this pilot will inform the development of a specific future NIH proposal.

Eligibility

- Faculty investigators at the eight participating DC CFAR institutions (American University, Children's National, DC Health, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Howard University, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Whitman-Walker) who are full members of the DC CFAR are eligible to apply. Applications for new membership will be accepted just prior to or at time of submission if the Principal Investigator (PI) meets the eligibility criteria. For membership information, please visit the DC CFAR website at: http://dccfar.gwu.edu/.
- PIs must: 1) have a terminal degree; 2) hold a current academic faculty appointment; and 3) be eligible to submit NIH grant applications through their home institution's office of research.
- PIs can either be Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators in HIV research, i.e. have not been funded for an HIV-related project through an NIH R01 or equivalent grant.
- PIs must be at the rank of Instructor, Research Scientist, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor. Clinical fellows are not eligible to apply as PIs.

Award Details

- Proposals up to $25,000 will be considered. Up to two awards are planned to be funded and the number will depend on the quality of submissions and on the continued availability of funds.
- Rapid Research Awards are meant to be initiated and completed quickly, within 1 year of the notice of award. A no-cost extension for a maximum of 6 months will be considered.
- Award funds can be used for research-related activities such as partial salary support for faculty (up to $10,000), research staff or students, supplies and reagents. Capital equipment purchases are not allowable.
- Investigators at American, Children's, DC Health, Georgetown, Howard, VAMC, and WW may need to route their grant applications through their Office of Sponsored Research Projects, or parallel office, for signature. Investigators at GW do not need to route their applications.
- As agreed to by each of the DC CFAR collaborating institutions, indirect costs will *not* be covered. Investigators at American, Children's, DC Health, Georgetown, Howard, VAMC and WW may want to let

their Office of Sponsored Research Projects (OSRP) know this in advance, as OSRP may want a copy of the RFA indicating this stipulation prior to or at the time of institutional routing of the grant application.

Key Dates

Procedure/Activity	Due Date
Email of Intent	September 2, 2022
Full Proposal	September 30, 2022
Application Review	October 2022
Anticipated Project Start	November 1, 2022

Application Instructions

All potential applicants are required to send an email of intent to Brandi Robinson, DC CFAR Administrative Director at bnrobin@email.gwu.edu by **Friday, September 2.** In the email, please include your: 1) name and rank, 2) institution, and 3) working title with a brief description of the project. The email of intent will help the Developmental Core link applicants to core services and expertise on an as needed basis and help inform the routing process.

Download the application form here.

Application Form Section Instructions (Please use Arial 11 font for the application)

1. *Face Page* – Complete this form as if submitting to NIH. Non-GW applicants may need to include the signature of an official from their respective institution.

2. *Project Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites* – Provide the project's scientific abstract in the Project Summary space. If funded, the scientific abstract will be posted on the DC CFAR website.

3. *Lay Summary –* A lay language summary of the project must be included on this page. This summary follows the scientific abstract and describes the abstract in terms understandable to the general public. The lay summary should also include a brief dissemination strategy detailing how findings will be communicated to the public. This summary will be reviewed by the DC CFAR Community Coordinator, who will assess the project's potential for community impact. Community engagement resources can be found here. All scientific terms need to be clearly defined in this summary and written at an 8th grade reading level. Please also include a concluding statement describing the potential for community impact locally, as well as nationally and internationally, if appropriate.

4. *Detailed Budget* - Review the allowable expenses and then complete the detailed budget.

5. *Budget Justification*

6. *Research Plan* – The research plan should be no more than three pages total, with no separate page for the specific aims. Please include the following elements: specific aims, significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment.

7. *References*

8. *DC CFAR Developmental Award Checklist*

Additional proposal requirements:

In addition to the application form above, please include the following in your final proposal:

- **Biosketches** of key personnel.

- Appropriate **letters of support** from co-investigators, collaborators or consultants, the Primary Mentor, and the PI's Department Chair or Division Director. Letters are not required from DC CFAR service providers.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize DC CFAR Core services in their proposed research projects. Consultation is always available through the Developmental Core. Study design support and social-behavioral research consultations are available through the Social and Behavioral Sciences Core (SBS) Core. Support for epidemiologic study design, biostatistics, writing clinical research protocols and access to clinical populations and specimens are available through the Clinical and Population Sciences Core (CPS). Laboratory services and assays are available through the Basic Sciences Core (BSC). For additional information or to request services, please contact Brandi Robinson, DC CFAR Administrative Director at bnrobin@email.gwu.edu.

Application Submission Details

- An email of intent should be sent to Brandi Robinson at bnrobin@email.gwu.edu by **September 2, 2022**.
- The final application should be emailed to bnrobin@email.gwu.edu by **5 pm ET on September 30, 2022**.
- The final proposal should be submitted as a single, combined PDF document and include the following: 1) completed application form; 2) biosketches of key personnel; and 3) letters of support.
- DC CFAR staff cannot make changes to or alter applications in any way once submitted. If an application is submitted before the deadline and changes need to be made, the applicant must make those changes themself and resubmit the entire application packet. Items submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- The funding period is November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023.

Review of Applications

- Applications that are complete and responsive to the announcement will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit, and alignment with the NIH HIV/AIDS research priorities by an internal DC CFAR review group. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Reviewers will assess the scientific merit of the applications using the following NIH criteria: overall impact, significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment. For a detailed explanation of these criteria, please see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbirsttr_ReviewCriteria.htm.
- Final funding decisions will be based largely on the scientific merit while also considering important programmatic factors such as research focus area, strength of plan for future NIH funding, proposed use of Core services, and potential for community impact.

Funding Requirements

- Ongoing consultation with a Primary Mentor is required throughout the project and thereafter, as appropriate, to support publishing results and submitting a subsequent NIH grant application. The Mentor must sign off on the submitted application, and if funded, the notice of award.
- PIs are required to notify the Developmental Core in writing if significant changes to the research plan or budget will be made.
- PIs are required to notify the Developmental Core in writing if external funding becomes available for the same scope of work as is proposed for this funded project through the DC CFAR. Funds may be rescinded if the project has not progressed substantially at the time of notification and review by the DC CFAR.
- CFAR funded projects must adhere to the Single IRB policy, if applicable. Reliance agreements are required for any CFAR pilot projects involving human participants that are subcontracted out to another institution, even if the parent institution is not conducting the same human participants research protocol. The DC CFAR will work with funded investigators to obtain the reliance with GW.

- If applicable, a copy of the PI's IRB and/or IACUC approval should be submitted to us as soon as possible upon receipt. As required by the NIH, the DC CFAR must have a current IRB and/or IACUC approval copy at all times. Renewal approvals and study closure forms should also be submitted to us in a timely manner.
- A project may require additional NIH review before commencing if it: a) involves new ways of using known drugs, treatments, or devices; b) is deemed above minimal risk by the Institutional IRB; c) involves vulnerable populations (children, pregnant women, transgender, sex workers, prisoners, refugees, individuals who are unable to provide informed consent, etc.); or d) involves behavioral interventions above minimal risk.
- Funded investigators who plan to recruit human participants will be required to submit the appropriate Human Subjects Information, including but not limited to, the planned enrollment and protection of human subjects.
- Progress and final reports will be required as updates on scientific progress.
- The award recipient may be asked to give a presentation of the proposed and completed research at seminars organized by the Developmental Core. The recipient may also be asked on other occasions to speak at or participate in other DC CFAR meetings and/or seminars.
- The award recipient will be responsible for completing brief outcome reports for the DC CFAR detailing any subsequent publications, funding awards, or collaborations resulting from this grant award for the next five years. The DC CFAR should be acknowledged in all above listed project outcomes whenever appropriate. Please note that any publications resulting from this award must cite the DC CFAR's NIH award number (P30AI117970) and must be compliant with NIH's public access policy. Please visit our website for more information about how to acknowledge the DC CFAR.

Contact Information

Application and Content Questions
Brandi Robinson
DC CFAR Administrative Director
Voicemail: 202-994-4730
Email: bnrobin@email.gwu.edu

Budget and Institutional Routing Questions
Quinn Benson
Research Program Associate, Pod 2
Email:qbenson@gwu.edu