



## Emory University Pilot Grant Program

### Topic: Bidirectional Global Health Disparities Research

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Research is offering a **unique 2-phase funding opportunity**. One in ten Georgia residents is an immigrant, while nearly 8 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens who have at least one immigrant parent. Further, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, and South Korea are designated by Emory University as priority countries in which to develop and implement country-based research initiatives for strategic engagement. We have a unique opportunity to leverage the work of several hundred faculty that are collaborating and working in these 5 countries through bidirectional research. For example, Atlanta has the second largest Ethiopian population (>10,000) in the United States, second only to Washington DC, and roughly 15,000 immigrants from Brazil and nearly 100,000 immigrants from India. While many universities have global partners, rarely if ever do they have a focused bidirectional research program that seeks to improve the lives of those living in low to middle income countries, as well as those who have immigrated to the catchment areas of the University.

Emory is a leading research university that fosters excellence and attracts world-class talent to innovate today and prepare leaders for the future. This application is guided by the One Emory Engaged for Impact Strategic Framework and the two pillars that support the framework: Innovation through Scholarship and Creative Expression - harnessing imagination and discovery to address 21st-century challenges; and Atlanta as a Gateway to the World - unleashing Emory and Atlanta's shared future to mobilize change for the world.

This document presents a call for proposals that will leverage populations from Emory's priority countries to address the health needs and disparities in outcomes of populations (first, second or third generation) who have immigrated to Emory's catchments in and around Atlanta or the State of Georgia. The purpose of this opportunity is to support research that assesses any aspect of immigrant mental or physical health care needs that would help inform interventions to improve health and well-being of populations from any of Emory's priority countries at risk for poor outcomes and who live in the Emory University, Atlanta catchments.



**There will be two phases to this call for application.**

- Phase I – up to 5 planning grants, \$25,000 one-year planning grants focused on preparation of the Phase II application.
- Phase II – pilot grants will comprise 2-3, up to \$150,000 (total) two-year awards. Those who successfully complete the planning grant phase will be eligible to compete for a Phase II pilot grant. The Phase II call for proposals will follow in 2021. However, information on both Phases (planning and pilot grants) is provided here to assist the design of Phase I proposals which are focused on work to inform the future Phase II application.

### Phase I – Planning Grant Application Due January 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Phase I – Planning Grant.** The purpose of the Phase I planning grant is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team of Emory faculty to plan and develop a rigorous proposal to assess health needs or test an intervention to improve health or well-being and diminish health disparities in an immigrant population tied to one of Emory's 5 priority countries: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, or South Korea. Faculty participation during Phase I from across all schools is strongly encouraged; one of the aims of Phase I funding can be development of a cross-school cohort of researchers.

#### Phase I - Eligibility Criteria

1. Available only to Emory full-time tenure, clinical or research track faculty of any rank.
2. Collaborators from one of the priority countries are permitted, but subcontracts are not.
3. Faculty may qualify for only 1 planning grant.
4. Teams receiving Phase I funding are expected to submit an annual progress report to the Office of the SVPR.
5. It is expected that Phase I teams will apply for Phase II funding.

#### Phase I – Application

The Phase I application will be no more than 3 pages of text and 1 page of budget and include the following:

- Title:
- Background: What is the size of the immigrant population of interest in and around Atlanta and within Georgia? What is the broad problem to be studied in the population of interest? Why is the problem important? Is the issue related to health disparities and or social determinants of health?



- Aims:
  - 1) Describe the multi-disciplinary team that will be brought together to develop a grant proposal to study or intervene on the problem to be addressed in the Phase II application, and their engagement with the team (who will lead the team, frequency of team meetings, deliverables toward writing the proposal for Phase II).
    - The Phase I application must include at least one faculty team member from any of the health sciences schools at Emory (SOM, SON, RSPH, Yerkes) who are also currently or recently working in the priority country of interest.
    - The Phase I application may include faculty team member(s) from the College or Oxford or the Professional Schools (Law, Business, Theology). If the Phase I application does not include a team member from one of these schools, then an explicit aim of the Phase I application must be to seek a team member from one of the non-health sciences schools. The further Phase II application will require at least one aim to include an issue that would be informed by the expertise of faculty from the colleges or professional schools (eg, Nearly one in five self-employed business owners in Georgia is an immigrant, how does that affect ability to carry health insurance; what are the major health policy challenges faced by the population; how does religion or spirituality change after immigration and does that affect health or quality of life; does visa status affect health, how does family-based immigration vs individual immigration affect health and well-being, etc....)
  - 2) Describe how the team will identify and access the immigrant population of interest.
  - 3) Describe how the team will engage and track the population of interest.
  - 4) Describe how the team will manage challenges of language in both verbal contact and translation of study materials.
  - 5) Provide an aim that will provide proof of principle that the team can engage the population and can obtain informed consent and or data. For example, the team may conduct interviews, surveys, or convene immigrant population advisory boards to demonstrate they will be able to access the population in the Phase II application.
- Brief plan on how aims will be achieved and the deliverables at the end of one year.
- The planning team: provide at least one paragraph on the expertise related to both the population of interest and the problem to be studied of the planning team leaders. Are they already working in one of Emory's 5 priority countries and how does this work potentially relate to the immigrant population of interest or how could findings in an Atlanta immigrant population inform work the team is already doing in-country?
- Budget and budget justification:
  - 1) Salary cap (NIH cap applied) at 5% effort for investigators;
  - 2) Budget may provide funding for research coordinator, research assistant, statistician or translator.
  - 3) Budget:
    - Major equipment or personal computers NOT allowable.



- Computers, phones, I-pads, wearables, etc are acceptable budget items ONLY if they are to be used by the population of interest to collect information directly. These items are not allowable for the investigators or study staff.
  - Incentives/honoraria for survey or advisory board participation or consultants from the population of interest are permitted.
- 4) There will be NO carryover of Phase I funds, all unexpended funds will be returned to the SVPR at the end of the one-year award.**

**Phase I – Application Timeline**

Item	Date	Details
Phase 1 Application Due	January 15 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Email Application Materials to Katherine Upshaw at katherine.upshaw@emory.edu
Review Timeline	8-10 weeks	
Award Announcements	Early April	
Funding start Date	Early May	

Each Phase I proposal must be submitted as a single PDF. The PDF file name format must be: Last name of Corresponding PI dot First Name of Corresponding PI dot pdf. For example: Smith.John.pdf

Please send your proposals to Katherine Upshaw at katherine.upshaw@emory.edu no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5 pm.

**Phase II – Pilot Grant Application Due May 2021**

**Phase II- Pilot Grant** (to be rolled out in 2021)– Pilot grant will comprise \$150,000 (total) for 2 years. \$75,000 will be disbursed after NOA and the remainder of the funds will be disbursed after major progress is documented in the annual progress report (or sooner if proof of progress can be demonstrated).

The purpose of Phase II- pilot grant is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team of Emory faculty to assess health needs or test an intervention to improve health or well-being and diminish health disparities in an immigrant population tied to one of Emory's 5 priority countries: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, or South Korea. The pilot grant application will be limited to 6 pages of text and will require and advance letter of intent.



### Phase II - Eligibility Criteria

- Available only to Emory full time tenure, clinical or research track faculty of any rank. Collaborators from priority country are permitted but subcontracts are not permitted, and all funds must be spent in the US.
- Only those teams who successfully completed a Phase I planning grant are eligible.
- Faculty will qualify for only 1 pilot grant.
- All proposals must include a clear plan for submitting subsequent extramural grant submissions as a result of the work proposed in this grant.
- Proposals must include a plan to maintain data on a secure system with quality control and stored on the Emory system with back-up and potential for data sharing.
- Teams receiving Phase II funding are expected to submit an annual progress to the Office of the SVPR.

More detailed information on the Phase II requirements and format will be shared at the time of notification of Phase I funding.

***For Phase I and Phase II grants, any publications and/or presentations resulting from this research must acknowledge the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, Emory University Pilot Grant Program Award and be deposited into PubMed Central.***