Rollins Program in Substance Use Disorders

Pilot Grant Program Call For Proposals

The Rollins Program on Substance Use Disorders is dedicated to ending harmful drug use by:

(1) Catalyzing innovative, transdisciplinary research and interventions into the complex causes and consequences of harmful drug use;

(2) Disseminating findings to inform policies, programs, and advocacy; and

(3) Training the next generation of scholars and practitioners in how to study and intervene in the causes and consequences of harmful drug use.

To this end, the Program will fund 2-3 pilot grants in academic year 2019/2020 on implementation science for harm reduction programs. In the US, the implementation chasm – defined by the Institute of Medicine as the gap between scientific advances and their implementation – is wide for harm reduction programs targeting substance use disorders (SUDs) and related health problems (e.g., hepatitis C virus, HIV, overdose). To illustrate, the Surgeon General estimates that approximately 25% of people living with SUDs received some form of specialty treatment in the past year; until recently, a single syringe service program operated in the state of Georgia.

The Rollins Program in Substance Use Disorders seeks to fund 2-3 pilot grants that will apply Implementation Science conceptual frameworks (e.g., CFIR, RE-AIM) and methods to studying or intervening in this implementation chasm. Pilot grants are expected to generate data and publications that are stepping stones to a large, externally funded grant (e.g., NIH R01) on implementation science for SUDs and related harms. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to, secondary analyses of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; and initiatives to develop a method, conceptual framework, or technology.

We will prioritize projects that:

- Investigate how the external environment (specifically, policies and characteristics of places, like poverty rates or community stigma) shape harm reduction program implementation and effects.
- Focus on health equity.
- Are conducted in close collaboration with community-based organizations, the Georgia Department of Public Health, or another governmental agency.
- Analyze data gathered in the Southeast.

Proposed projects can have more than one Principal Investigator (PI). In these cases, PI roles must be distinct.

I. <u>Eligibility Criteria</u>

To be eligible for a pilot grant, one PI must be a full-time faculty member at Emory (tenure track or clinical research track). We will prioritize the following investigators:

- New investigators, defined as "investigators who have not previously received substantial, independent funding from NIH" (https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm)
- Established investigators who are new to applying implementation science concepts and methods to studying harm reduction programs.

Individuals who are currently Principal Investigator on a grant funded by the Rollins Program on Substance Use Disorders will not be eligible for these pilot grants.

II. <u>Funding</u>

- Award amount: Up to $30,000 in direct costs; close collaborations with community-based organizations, GDPH's surveillance unit, or another governmental agency will receive an additional $10,000.
- Award duration: 1 year, with a possible no-cost extension into Year 2. Pilot grants are non-renewable.

III. <u>Application Process</u>

Key dates

- Letters of Intent should be submitted to Ms. Laura Donnelly via email (ldonnel@emory.edu) by October 14 at 5 pm. Each submission should be a single PDF.
- Proposals should be submitted to Ms. Laura Donnelly via email (ldonnel@emory.edu) by November 15 at 5 pm. Each submission should be a single PDF.
- Awards will be announced by December 15.
- Earliest start date: January 2.

Letter of Intent

Letters of Intents (LOIs) are required and are due Oct 14 at 5 pm. LOIs must include:

- Title of the project
- A 30-line abstract of the proposed project (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single -spaced)
- The name(s), affiliation(s), and email address(es) of the Principal Investigator(s)
- Names and affiliations of the co-investigators, if any
- Required reviewer expertise
- Suggested reviewers. Reviewers must be arm's length. An "arm's length" reviewer is someone who has no recent personal connection with the applicant (e.g., has not served as a mentor, collaborator, or advisor in the past 5 years).
- NIH biosketches for all faculty investigators; CVs are acceptable for non-academic collaborators

Proposal

Proposals are due Nov 15, and must include

- Title of the project
- A 30-line abstract of the proposed project (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single spaced)
- Research strategy
  - Maximum 4 pages in length (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single spaced)
  - Aims: ½ page
  - Significance, innovation, and impact: 1 page
  - Approach, including alternative approaches: 2 pages
  - Plans for future external funding: ½ page. Successful applications will clearly describe how pilot aims are aligned with specific funding priorities at a major, external agency (e.g., NIH, CDC), and how the findings and publications from the pilot grant will support the development of a specific new application for significant external funding (e.g., NIH R01).
- References (not included in the page limit for the Research Strategy)
- Biosketches for all academic investigators; the "personal narrative" and "contributions to science" sections of each biosketch must be tailored to the proposal and illustrate why each team member is appropriate to their role. The personal narrative section should note whether the PI is a new investigator or an established investigator who is new to the topic. CVs are acceptable for non-academic collaborators.
- Proposals led by >1 PI must include a "Multi-PI Leadership plan," per PHS 398 guidelines. The Leadership plan requirements can be found here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/multi_pi/sample_leadership_plans.pdf
- Budget justification
- Itemized budget – Budgets should be completed using the NIH PHS 398 budget form page 5. Budget forms can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

Review process

- Reviews will be conducted by a panel of arm's length experts. Reviewers will assess the proposed project's potential impact, significance, innovation, approach, and investigative team to assess the merits of each application, and also its potential to support the development of future high-impact externally funded projects.
- Reviewers will provide written comments for all proposals.

Release of Funds

Before each Notice of Grant award can be released, the PI(s) must:

- Supply IRB approval or a letter indicating exemption
- Agree to cite the grant on all publications and presentations generated by the pilot grant.
- Agree to submit a progress report at the midpoint of the grant, and a final report at the end.

- Agree to participate in SUD program lunches and activities
- All federal and university rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply to these funds.

Please contact Ms. Laura Donnelly (ldonnel@emory.edu) with questions.