

**University of Maryland School of Medicine**  
**Program in Health Equity and Population Health**  
**Center for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**  
**--Call for Proposals--**

**About the Center and Program:** The Program, housed within the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, is a research-focused entity that aims to support the elimination of health disparities in Baltimore City, Maryland, and beyond through research, education, and community engagement. The Program provides opportunities for networking and education for faculty and support for external grant submissions. The Center functions as a hub for collaborations between School of Medicine (SOM) partners to achieve shared goals that support equity, diversity, and inclusion within the SOM and its surrounding community.

In April 2021, the Program began supporting 5 topic-specific think tanks for research in the following areas:

1. Maternal and Child Health Disparities
2. Disparities in Infectious Diseases
3. Obesity, CVD, and Diabetes Disparities
4. Disparities in Mental Health and Addiction
5. Cancer Disparities

If you are not a current member of the Program or a think tank, please visit our website with information on how to join.

Through funds provided by the SOM Dean's office, the Program and Center will be awarding four grants, totaling \$100,000, during the 2022 and 2023 calendar years.

**Purpose:** This initiative will provide "seed" incentives to stimulate new or existing research collaborations that will ultimately result in external grant funding.

**Due Date:** Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

**Funding Start Date (Duration):** January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 (12 months)

**Funding Amount per award:** \$25,000

**Applicant Requirements:**

- Applications must be submitted by two collaborating faculty (both must hold a primary position in the School of Medicine) who are both members of one of the Program's think tanks (think tanks can have more than one submission).
- At least one of the faculty members must be an Associate or Full professor.
- The application must include at least one community partner (organization or individuals) with a specified role and letter of support from the partner.

**Application Details**

1. Cover page listing title of the project, PIs and affiliations (1 page, does not count toward page limit)

*For the following, do not to exceed 5 pages, Arial 11-point font, single-spaced, 0.5 inch margins*

2. Specific Aims

3. Significance and Health Impact

- Applications must clearly describe the health disparity being addressed by the application (both the disease and differential burden for a defined population)

4. Approach (including analysis plan)

5. Dissemination Plan

6. Timeline

7. Next Steps

- Must specify the next stage of planned research for this topic (specify planned grant mechanism- federal, foundation, etc. and describe the overall goal of that planned proposal).

- Must also specify how this work will contribute to a larger program project grant for a specific area of research (for example, “*This will provide pilot data for a community-based project that will compliment ongoing clinical and basic science work in the area of SPECIFY research being conducted by Drs. X and Y. Together, we will submit a larger program project grant to address SPECIFY disparities within the next 3 years*”).

***The following does not count toward the 5-page limit***

8. References
9. Standard NIH Biosketches (new or old format) for faculty
10. Short description of Community Partner (~1/2-1 page) and their role in the project
11. Letter(s) of support from community partner(s)

**Budget: 1-2 pages, including a table of expenses and justification (with explicit role of each investigator and any individual receiving salary support)**

The following expenses are not allowed:

- Indirect Costs
- Administrative support
- Travel to scientific meetings
- General telephone services and postage
- Alterations or renovations of laboratory space
- Purchase of laboratory or office furniture
- Purchase of periodicals and books
- Dues and memberships in scientific societies.

The review process will be managed by the Program in HEPH. If members of the Program choose to submit applications, they will recuse themselves from the review process. Questions regarding this Call for Proposals may be addressed to Kristi Corona at [kcorona@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:kcorona@som.umaryland.edu). Questions and answers will be compiled and sent to Program faculty members.

**Submission information:** Proposals must be submitted as a combined PDF file to [kcorona@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:kcorona@som.umaryland.edu) by **November 1, 2021, 5:00 pm EST**.

**Review criteria:**

Proposals will be evaluated by the HEPH Program Committee supplemented by external reviewers or additional panel members, as needed. Proposals will be reviewed for: 1) research focus on health equity and population health; 2) potential to generate preliminary data that will lead to a major grant application to federal or commercial agencies; 3) promotion of scientific excellence in the domain of health equity and population health research. Applicants should not expect detailed written critiques of their proposals.

**Conditions:**

Awards made are non-transferrable. Funds that are not spent during the one-year project period will be returned to the HEPH Program.

Reporting requirements: A 6-month report and a final project report is due one month after the end-date of the project. An annual brief report is required each year for the two years after the end-date to provide updates and a list of scientific products resulting from the funding. This should include a list of proposals submitted, pending, and funded as well as a list of papers and presentations that result from funding.