
*Atlanta VA Health Care System Seed Funding to Promote Academic Affiliations and
New Collaborations: Request for Proposals (RFP)*

The Atlanta VA HCS Research Office is soliciting proposals to develop new interdisciplinary research projects that have the potential to impact veterans' health or generate biomedical knowledge. Grants will be considered from VA independent principal investigators (CDA-awardees are not eligible) with current or previous (within the past 2-years) VA ORD funding. These awards will provide seed money to help investigators obtain sufficient data to develop and support applications for external collaborative funding. The goal is to take programs to the level at which extramural funding may be pursued. **These awards require interdisciplinary team collaboration, with at least one collaborator based at an Atlanta VA academic affiliate who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project.**

Funding Availability – Awards will be made **up to \$100,000** in total direct costs. All funds must be expended by September 15, 2023. The total number of awards to be made will be based on the merit of proposals and funds requested.

Eligibility Applicants -

1. Faculty PIs at the rank of Assistant Professor or above with a primary appointment at the Atlanta VA and at least 3/8ths protected time for research.
***These seed grants cannot be used to justify requests for additional protected time for research.**
2. Each application requires an interdisciplinary team collaboration with at least one collaborator from an Atlanta VA academic affiliate (Emory, Morehouse, Georgia Tech, or Georgia State). These collaborators must bring a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project.
***Funds may not be used to support research administration costs at affiliate institutions.**
3. Cannot be duplicative of current funding at the time of the award.
4. Each PI can submit only one application in response to this RFP.

Timeline

- RFA Release Date: **October 6, 2022**
- Full Proposal Deadline: **November 4, 2022**
- Review of Full Proposals: **November 7 – November 11, 2022**
- Anticipated Award Notification Date: **Nov 13, 2022**
- Anticipated Period of Performance: **November 2022 – September 2023**
***No cost extensions and funds carryover cannot be granted. Residual funds will be returned to the Research Office.**

Application Information

Applicants should submit the following materials **no later than 5:00 PM on November 4, 2022 (no exceptions)**. Standard VA research application instructions (font, margin, formatting, etc.) will apply to all application components. **All components must be submitted as a single pdf attachment.**

1. **Title page:** including the title of the proposal and names, titles, and institutional affiliations of all key personnel. (*maximum 1 page*)
2. **Summary/Abstract** (*maximum 30 lines*)

3. **Specific Aims** (*maximum 1 page*)
4. **Preliminary data** are suggested, to illustrate the project is feasible (*maximum 2 pages*)
5. **Research Strategy:** Must be formatted by Specific Aim and include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach (*maximum 3 pages*)
6. **Relevance to Veterans Health** (*maximum 10 lines*)
7. **Brief explanation of how the proposal will foster new collaboration and funding:** consider addressing 1) how the proposed application provides synergistic opportunities for key personnel; 2) the potential for significant impact and a VA Merit or NIH R01; 3) time to impact (with a well-defined timeline for future collaborative applications for extramural funding; 4) creativity and novelty of the idea/approach; and 5) feasibility of carrying out the proposed project within the limited budget period (*maximum 1 page*).
8. **References** (including only those which are most pertinent) (*maximum 2 pages*)
9. **Letters of support are not permitted**
10. **Budget** (*using this template*):
 - a. Dollar amount requested (maximum of \$100,000)
 - b. Breakdown of budget (personnel and supplies) with dollar amounts for each
 - c. Faculty salary support up to 3/8ths (**MDs not eligible**). Funds for salaries and fringe for study staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and other study-related personnel may be requested.
 - d. Travel expenses and equipment (must be under \$10,000) allowable.
 - e. Computers, general-purpose equipment, office supplies, etc. may not be charged to this project.
 - f. Indirect costs are not allowed.
 - g. No subcontracts are allowed.
11. **Budget Justification** (*maximum 1 page*)
12. **Biosketches:** NIH-style biosketches for key personnel.

Review and Award Process* - The following Review Criteria will be used to score proposals:

1. Identifies an interdisciplinary team collaboration with at least one new collaborator outside of the VA who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project.
2. Benefits of, and need for, collaboration
3. Potential for significant impact if the project were to succeed
4. Time to impact (preference given to projects with well-defined time plans)
5. Creativity and novelty of the idea/approach
6. Feasibility of carrying out the proposed project
7. Chances of a successful outcome
8. Potential to generate extramural funding

**Given the tight timeline, reviewers will be asked to score proposals but will not be asked to generate written critiques.*

Progress Reports

Return on Investment (including publications, patents, presentations, grant awards, etc.) must be reported after the budget period.