



## Georgia CTSA Request for Proposals Pilot Grants Program

Georgia CTSA's Pilot Grants Program is soliciting proposals that either: a.) generate preliminary data and refine research strategies for subsequent extramural grant applications, OR b.) develop the best approaches and methodologies to address complex translational and clinical research problems.

**The overall purpose of the [Georgia CTSA](#)** is to deliver scientific and systems change that solve the many outstanding problems limiting the efficiency, effectiveness and reach of clinical and translational research (CTR), and thus deliver more treatments to more patients more quickly across the country.

Two categories of grants will be considered:

- **Category 1** - Grants that focus on translational and clinical research. Pilot projects are intuitively understood to represent preliminary, preparatory, or feasibility studies designed to assess the applicability of new technologies, protocols, data collection instruments, or subject recruitment strategies as stepping-stones toward a full, hypothesis-testing investigation. The four academic institutional partners of the Georgia CTSA collectively recognize the critical need for start-up, feasibility, or proof-of-concept resources.
- **Category 2** - Grants that address a translational research question which could provide innovative approaches and methodological insights that could be generalizable to other projects/diseases. The Pilot Grants Program will seek proposals that propose:
  - Novel technology development
  - Interdisciplinary grants following [Blue Sky Group](#) events
  - Best approaches to address important clinical and translational research (CTR) problems and/or the science of translational science (*see below*)
  - Innovative approaches to overcoming choke points in the translational process, such as regulatory hurdles and patient recruitment
  - Novel methodologies for clinical research that can be generalized to other projects
  - Development of new approaches for implementation science that will enhance the translation of medical advances into the community or to special populations
  - Health Equity is currently the central theme of the Georgia CTSA. Grants focused on Health Equity are strongly encouraged.

[Georgia CTSA's Coordinating Center](#) is a virtual "front door" to internal Georgia CTSA services and external supporting resources. We will aid applicants navigating "Research Roadblocks" such as regulatory and IRB

processes or approvals or potential ethical dilemmas. We help strengthen submissions by identifying resource gaps and matching with Georgia CTSA supportive programs.

**Funding Availability** - Awards involving one institution will be up to \$40,000 in total direct costs. Awards involving two or more partner institutions will be up to \$50,000 in total direct costs, with no more than \$40,000 allotted to each institution. The total number of awards to be made is variable based on merit, funds requested, and Pilot Program budget; a maximum of \$220,000 will be awarded in this round. In addition, some partner institutions have committed funds for pilot grants. Indirect costs will be added after the awards have been made.

**Eligibility** – Full-time faculty from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia may submit proposals. One proposal may be submitted per faculty member. Proposals involving collaborations among Georgia CTSA partners are encouraged. Junior faculty are encouraged to apply. Any faculty member who has a current grant with overlapping aims is not eligible to apply.

UGA applicants must notify the Assistant Director of the Owens Institute for Behavioral Research (OIBR), Kim Cherewick, of their intention to submit a pilot grant application. The Owens Institute will provide extensive pre-award proposal support in addition to important communication (to candidate and their department) about internal procedures related to Georgia CTSA. Contact info: Kimberly Silvis Cherewick, [ksilvis@uga.edu](mailto:ksilvis@uga.edu), (706) 542-6078.

Note: All pilot project recipients will be eligible for the **Georgia CTSA Award of Distinction in Team Science** – “To further promote collaboration, the Georgia CTSA Executive Oversight Council will award an annual Award of Distinction in Team Science during their annual meeting to Georgia CTSA investigators who, through their multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary collaborations, have made a profound impact in CTR.”

### **Timeline**

January 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM – letters of intent due

Early February 2025 – all applicants selected to submit final applications notified

March 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM – proposals due

Early May 2025 – applicant award notification

August 1, 2025 – earliest anticipated pilot grant start date

July 31, 2026 – pilot grant end date, No NCEs permitted

### **Letter of Intent**

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via the [online form](#) **no later than 5:00 PM** (no exceptions) **on January 15, 2025** that includes:

1. Descriptive title and short summary (less than 250 words) of the proposed project.
2. Project area of focus
3. Name, e-mail, primary institution, role (e.g., PI, Co-I), and academic rank of each investigator(s).
4. Indicate if Principal Investigator is an early stage investigator [as defined by NIH](#).
5. Attach a list of the PI’s currently supported grants.
  - Pilot grants support new projects, not extensions or variations of an existing project, and are not for bridge funding of previously funded work.
6. Provide sufficient detail to demonstrate how proposed pilot grant is a new project and that it does not overlap with existing funded projects from the listed team of investigators.

## Application Information for Projects that Pass the LOI Stage

**Invited applicants** should submit the following materials using the online application **no later than 5:00 PM** (no exceptions) **on Friday, March 3, 2025:**

Each of the following items should be uploaded as PDF documents. (Please avoid scanning text documents to create PDFs.)

- Title Page
  - Must include title of the proposal
  - PI name, degree(s), title(s) and institution
  - Indicate if PI is a new investigator who has not previously received funding from NIH as PI on a competitive grant
  - Research teams' names, degrees, titles and institutions
- Summary/Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Specific Aims: *Maximum one page.*
- Research Strategy: Must include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach. *Maximum 3 pages. References not included in page limit.*
  - Revised applications should include responses from the previous review. *Maximum 1 page.*
- Biosketches: Include NIH-style biosketches for key personnel. Please use [this template](#).
  - Biosketch instructions [here](#)
  - Biosketches generated using ScienCV also will be accepted
- IRB or IACUC Approval Letter OR select "pending" from the drop-down menu on the online form. ***IRB or IACUC protocols must have been submitted prior to submission of this pilot award application. Funding will not be disbursed without IRB/IACUC approval.*** IRB/IACUC approval for proposals selected for funding must be received by June 16, 2025.
- Projected budget\* using this [template](#).
  - A separate budget page should be submitted for each institution that will incur costs on behalf of this project.
  - If your project is a [NIH-defined clinical trial](#), include all fees assessed by your institution to manage clinical trials.
  - Funding Limits and Budgeting Requirements
    - Awards involving one institution will be up to \$40,000 in total direct costs. Awards involving two or more partner institutions will be up to \$50,000 in total direct costs. The total number of awards to be made is variable based on merit, funds requested, and Pilot Program budget; a maximum of \$220,000 will be awarded in this round. Budgets must be in [this format](#). Please submit one budget page per institution.
    - It is not required that the PI request salary and fringe. The total salary and fringe cost combined for *all faculty members* may not exceed 25% of the direct cost budget. The current federal fringe for your home institution should be applied. The NIH salary cap applies.
    - Funds may be requested for salaries for study staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and other study-related personnel. Funds may also be requested for research lab supplies.
    - Funds for this project may be used for data collection and analysis, research lab supplies, and student/postdoc/staff/technical support that are directly related to the conduct of the research. Costs subject to CAS approval, such as general-purpose equipment, computers, computer peripherals, office supplies, etc. may not be charged to this project. Salary support for administrative support is not appropriate.
    - Travel expenses directly related to the performance of the research are allowable.

Travel to conferences to present research findings is allowable.

- All federal and institutional rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply. These pilot funds are federal funds.
- Budget Justification

#### Application formatting:

- Use paper size no larger than 8 ½" x 11"
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages
- Font size must be 11 points or larger (smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%)
- Text color must be black (color text in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, footnotes, and headings is acceptable)
- The following fonts are acceptable: Arial and Calibri

Click [here](#) for guidance on the Summary/Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, Budget and Budget Justification.

#### Review and Award Process

Each application will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Proposed research should be focused since funds are provided for 12 months. No-cost extensions will not be granted. **Preference will be given to proposals conducted across the Georgia CTSA partner institutions and proposals with a focus on Health Equity.** *Applicants will be notified by early May 2025 if their proposal has been accepted for funding.*

#### Progress Reports and Citation Requirements

Awardees are required to submit periodic progress reports and to cite the Georgia CTSA NIH award number (**UL1-TR002378**) on all products (publications, patents, presentations) resulting from this award. Also, each PI is required to serve as a reviewer for the following year's Pilot Program applications.

**For all application questions, please contact:** Bekeela Davila [Bekeela.davila@emory.edu](mailto:Bekeela.davila@emory.edu)

#### Upcoming changes

Please note that important changes are anticipated for the CTSA Pilot Grants Program in the coming year. In that next cycle, starting in 2026, pilot projects must be focused on translational science, i.e., focused on understanding a scientific or operational principle underlying a step of the translational process with the goal of developing generalizable principles to accelerate translational research. Projects are intended to: (1) explore possible innovative new leads or new directions for established investigators; (2) stimulate investigators from other areas to lend their expertise in research in CTS; and (3) provide initial support to establish proof of concept.