

## Emory CFAR Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Research Projects Related to Mental Health, Health Equity, and HIV

The Center for AIDS Research at Emory University (Emory CFAR) is committed to supporting faculty toward independent investigator status in HIV/AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The purpose of this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is to describe an Emory CFAR funding mechanism focused on HIV and mental health, utilizing a health equity approach. The NOSI is sponsored by the Emory CFAR Health Equity Scientific Working Group.

The Emory CFAR recently hosted a series of listening sessions with Atlanta-area HIV community advocates and researchers. In these sessions, participants agreed about the importance of mental health in the HIV response. Further, they identified key priorities, including: improving mental health care access for people living with HIV; addressing stigmatization within mental health care settings; and, the need for holistic and comprehensive care. These community-derived priorities are consistent with [NIH/OAR high priority areas of research](#).

Through this NOSI, the CFAR Developmental Core is soliciting applications for pilot grants of up to \$50,000 for research projects addressing HIV and mental health. *Collaborative projects MUST INCLUDE an Emory University- or Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC)-based faculty Principal Investigator (PI) and an MPI/partner\* from a Metro Atlanta-area community-based organization.* Applicants must meaningfully involve and appropriately compensate people living with HIV in the process of developing and implementing the project.\*\* This funding mechanism is designed 1) to help the investigator(s) generate preliminary data to strengthen the competitiveness of future NIH applications addressing this research area and 2) to forge HIV-focused community-academic research partnerships. [Clinical trials](#), including pilot testing of any new interventions, are **NOT** allowed.

***Examples of potential research proposals may include (but are not limited to):***

### **Improving Access to Mental Health Services for People Living with HIV:**

- Examine and/or plan to address barriers and facilitators to mental health service access among people living with HIV.
- Develop and/or evaluate interventions addressing mental health and social determinants of health for people living with HIV.
- Develop new or evaluate existing peer counselor support models for addressing mental health among people living with HIV.

### **Reducing Stigma in Mental Health and HIV Care Settings:**

- Examine and/or plan to address stigma associated with mental health in HIV-related healthcare.
- Examine stigmatizing attitudes among mental health providers and staff members.
- Develop an intervention to train mental health providers in cultural humility.

### **Models for Integrated and/or Holistic Care and Services:**

- Develop new or alternative models of provision of HIV-related support services that address both mental health and HIV-related needs.
- Plan for the adaptation or implementation of existing integrated care models in local CBO or clinical settings.

### **Eligibility, Submission Procedures, and Deadlines**

Interested applicants should refer to the standard [CFAR-03 Mentored Research Award NOFOA](#) for full application information, including details on eligibility\*, submission procedures, and deadlines.

*\*NOTE: PI Eligibility and MPI/partner Requirements included here supersede those outlined in the CFAR-03 Mentored Research Award NOFO.*

### **Special Application Instructions**

The MPI/partner from the Metro Atlanta-area community-based organization should be budgeted under the “Consultants” category for the purposes of this application. The roles and contributions of the Partner/MPI should be clearly described in the application narrative.

The applicant does not have to have a partner (academic or community-based) identified to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent. However, both MPIs must be confirmed by the time of the application submission. Applicants who need help identifying an academic and/or community partner should contact Galina Terbova ([gterbov@emory.edu](mailto:gterbov@emory.edu)).

*\*\*Funds are available through the Emory CFAR to provide compensation to the individual(s) identified to support pre-application submission project development. Please contact Galina Terbova ([gterbov@emory.edu](mailto:gterbov@emory.edu)) for information on this process before compensation is discussed.*

**Contact**

Galina Terbova, DPA, MBA  
Assistant Director, Research Programs  
Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) at Emory University  
[gterbov@emory.edu](mailto:gterbov@emory.edu)