

## Joint Call for Pilot Research Project Proposals from the Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory and the Center for AIDS Research at Emory, 2022

The Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE) and the Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) are collaborating to issue a joint call for proposals. Funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, IPRCE brings together multidisciplinary stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to advance injury, violence, and overdose prevention in Georgia and the Southeast region, and to support and conduct research that translates to effective injury prevention strategies and improvements in health outcomes. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the CFAR is committed to ending the HIV epidemic by accelerating the highest caliber translational research, and by fostering team science, equity, and multidirectional stakeholder engagement.

The goal of this joint call is to foster a new generation of research and interventions at the intersection of HIV and Injury. Injury and HIV share multiple common determinants (e.g., ACEs, structural discrimination), and parallel inequities exist in the burden of each. Moreover, people living with HIV experience higher burdens of injury (e.g., intimate partner violence, overdose) and injury histories can create vulnerability to adverse HIV-related outcomes (e.g., transmission, progression). Interventions to reduce one may have spillover effects on the other.

Pilot project applications should be designed to build the foundation for a future, externally funded (e.g., NIH R01) grant that will advance [NIH HIV Research priority areas](#) as well as [CDC NCIPC research priorities](#) and IPRCE priorities. We are seeking projects that have a high potential to generate future externally funded grants. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to, studies of:

- The impact of mass shootings – generated by White Supremacy and otherwise – on HIV-related outcomes, and inequities in these outcomes
- The co-occurrence of adverse HIV-related health outcomes and injury (e.g., HIV infection and overdose), and related mechanisms driving this co-occurrence
- The relationship of intimate partner violence to viral suppression
- The association of adverse or positive childhood experiences on HIV risk behaviors throughout the life course

We will prioritize projects that have a dual Principal Investigator (PI) structure that pairs a faculty member with HIV-related expertise with a faculty member with injury-related expertise.

*NOTE: Proposed projects with more than one PI must explain how their roles will be distinct.*

## I. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a pilot grant, at least one PI must:

- Meet eligibility criteria to be a Principal Investigator on an NIH R-level grant, AND
- Hold a faculty or faculty-equivalent position with a full-time appointment at Emory University.

We will prioritize the following Emory investigators:

- Early stage 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 have not yet received funding from the CDC or NIH to study either an injury- or HIV-related health outcome.
  - *Prior approval for this classification from IPRCE and CFAR leadership is required at the LOI stage.*
- Investigators who are IPRCE core faculty, a member of an [IPRCE task force](#), or are a [member of CFAR](#)

Individuals who are members of the IPRCE or CFAR leadership teams or who are currently Principal Investigators funded by IPRCE’s Research Core or CFAR’s development core will not be eligible for this funding. They may, however, choose to provide in-kind effort to a project.

## II. Funding

- Direct costs for this mechanism are \$40K.
- Indirect costs are not allowed. No federal funds will be used to support these projects.
- Award duration: 12 months, with a possible no-cost extension. Pilot grants are non-renewable.

## III. Application Process

### *Key dates*

- Letters of Intent should be submitted via the [online Qualtrics survey form](#) by July 15 at 5pm EST.
- By August 1, Letters of Intent will be reviewed and a subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- Required virtual Pre-Review Meetings will be held the week of September 12 via Zoom.
- Full proposals should be submitted to Marielysse Cortés via email ([marielysse.cortes@emory.edu](mailto:marielysse.cortes@emory.edu)) by November 4 at 5pm EST. Each submission should be a single PDF.
- Awards will be announced in January 2023.

### *Letter of Intent*

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are mandatory for submission, but are not binding.

[Click HERE for Link to online Letter of Intent](#)

LOIs must include the following:

1. Title of the project
2. The name(s) and email address(es) of the Principal Investigator(s)
3. Names and affiliations of the co-investigators, if any
4. The specific [NIH HIV Research priority areas](#), IPRCE and [CDC NCIPC research priorities](#) or [CDC NCIPC ACE prevention research priorities](#), to which your project is responding and an explanation in up to 2 sentences of why your project is responsive to these priorities.
5. A 30-line abstract of the proposed project
6. Required reviewer expertise
7. Suggested reviewers. Reviewers should be from Emory or the CDC and 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).

### *Virtual Pre-Review Meeting*

In these meetings, the project PI will present an overview of the proposed study to a review panel and receive feedback from reviewers about how to strengthen the proposed study's significance, innovation, methods, investigative team, impact, and alignment with HIV, IPRCE and NCIPC priorities. Applicants are asked to email their PowerPoint slides to Marielysse Cortés ([marielysse.cortes@emory.edu](mailto:marielysse.cortes@emory.edu)) the morning of the meeting. *Proposal* Please submit your proposal as a single PDF document in the order of required components below. Be sure to include the PI last name(s) in the file title.

Proposals must include:

1. Title of the project
2. The specific **NIH HIV Research priority areas**, IPRCE and **CDC NCIPC research priorities** or CDC NCIPC ACE prevention research priorities, to which your project is responding.
3. A 30-line abstract of the proposed project (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single spaced)
4. Aims: 1 page (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single spaced). The aims page should follow the NIH format for specific aims (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general-forms-e.pdf>, page G-142).
  - *Explicitly describe how achieving your aims will advance the NIH HIV and CDC/IPRCE priorities specified above.*

5. Research strategy:
  - 6 pages (Arial, 11-point font; 0.5-inch margins; single spaced).
  - Follow the NIH R03 structure (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general-forms-e.pdf>, page G-143) with sections on significance, innovation, and approach as well as the following enhancements:
    - The significance section must describe how the proposed study will address one or more of the CDC NCIPC and OAR research priorities;
    - The research strategy must include a timeline of key milestones and describe the feasibility of achieving each milestone;
    - The research strategy must describe  $\geq 1$  manuscript that the pilot project will generate and identify a target journal;
    - The research strategy must include a section on  $\geq 1$  proposal that the proposed project will generate and a clear description of how it aligns with the strategic plan or existing call for proposals for NIH/CDC funding, as it relates to HIV/AIDS and injury prevention research.
6. References (not included in the page limit for the Research Strategy)
7. 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.
8. Proposals led by >1 PI must include a “[Multi-PI Leadership plan,](#)” per [PHS 398 guidelines](#)
9. Budget justification
10. Itemized budget – Budgets should be completed using the [NIH PHS 398 budget form](#) - page 5.
  - **Unallowable expenses:**
    - *Equipment/items over \$5,000*
    - *Salary support for senior investigators*
  - **Restrictions:** *PI salary and fringe budget is limited to \$8,000 in total.*

#### *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 IPRCE source grant and the CFAR source 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. *A template will be provided for this report.*
- Agree to present to IPRCE Task Forces and other relevant committees.
- Agree to meet bimonthly with scientific leaders of other funded IPRCE research core projects.

### *Extramural Proposal Review*

In addition to these requirements, we will also support the creation of new proposals developed from the funded pilot proposals. An Extramural Proposal Review will be held to help PIs successfully compete for new funding. We will organize mock reviews of proposals in progress, in addition to providing opportunities to workshop developing proposals during bimonthly meetings.

All federal and university rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply to these funds.

Please contact Marielyse Cortés ([mcortes@emory.edu](mailto:mcortes@emory.edu)) with questions.