Research Fund

The purposes of this fund are to support research conducted by faculty affiliates and student members of the Consortium for Families & Health Research (C-FAHR) – in the context of personal career development, to promote interdisciplinary research collaboration among C-FAHR affiliated members, and to make teams more competitive in securing external funding. There are three types of awards:

**Faculty Pilot Grants** are intended to support faculty-led research efforts that will lead to new proposals for extramural funding in the future. A C-FAHR affiliated faculty member must serve as principal investigator. The proposal may request funds for equipment, supplies, research-related travel (for field work or data collection), hourly wages for research assistants, and miscellaneous other uses as approved by the Executive Committee. Funds cannot be used to cover faculty release time, nor can they be used to attend conferences for presentation or dissemination of findings. Maximum funding is $10,000.

**Interdisciplinary Team Development** or **Mentor/Consultant Fees:** C-FAHR affiliated faculty members may request funds to assist in interdisciplinary proposal or team development. These funds could be used for travel, either to have a consultant or collaborator come to Utah or for a C-FAHR affiliate to travel elsewhere. Travel should be directly relevant to a collaboration that will lead to future extramural funding; travel to conferences to present or disseminate research findings will not be supported by this fund. Alternatively, these funds could be used to provide an honorarium (up to $500) for a mentor or consultant who will assist in the development and/or review of an extramural grant proposal prior to submission. A mentor or consultant must be a C-FAHR affiliate at the University of Utah or an experienced researcher outside of the University of Utah. Applications must justify explicitly how the chosen mentor or consultant will be used to improve the quality of a specific grant proposal, or why travel is necessary in the development of the research team or specific grant proposal. Maximum funding is $1,000. Note: Affiliated members who are considered “new” researchers (those who have not yet received external funding) are eligible to apply for this award, in addition to the Pilot Grant funds during the same review cycle.

**Graduate Student Research Award:** Student affiliates may request funds to assist in the development or execution of an independent research project, such as a master’s thesis or dissertation. Funds may be used to cover expenses related to data or software needs, participant remuneration, research-related travel such as field work, equipment, or other reasonable costs associated with the proposed research. Funds cannot be used toward a graduate student stipend or hourly wages of the student PI, nor can funds be used to attend conference to present or disseminate findings. The graduate student must serve as the PI for the proposal, and both the student and his/her faculty advisor must be current affiliates of C-FAHR at the time of application. These applications must include a brief letter of faculty support. Maximum funding is $1,000.

If C-FAHR members have funding requests that are outside of the scope of these three programs, they are encouraged to contact the Executive Committee to discuss their ideas. Other types of funding requests **may be considered**, if the proposed projects further the development of C-FAHR goals.
**To Apply**

Proposals are due by **5pm** on **February 1**. Funding decisions will be made by early March.

Prepare a 1-2 page statement describing the project. It should be single spaced with minimum font size of 11-point. Lengthier applications will not be reviewed; appendices will not be reviewed. The statement should include: a **project title**, a **succinct project description including specific aims, methods, a specific timeline for start and finish, budget and justification, and at least one specific outcome that the award is expected to have**. Examples of outcomes include submission of a manuscript or a grant application. Please indicate whether other funds and resources are available to help with the project, and if so, the approximate dollar amount(s) and source(s).

A request letter may be submitted before IRB approval is obtained, but documentation of final IRB approval or exemption is required before funds will be disbursed.

Only current C-FAHR affiliates (faculty or student) are eligible to apply for these funds. Membership applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed at least monthly. For membership instructions: www.utah.edu/faculty/c-fahr

**Application Review**

Proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by the C-FAHR Executive Committee, currently including Drs. Cynthia Berg, Rebecca Utz, Ken Smith, Heather Canary, Joseph Stanford, Julie Fritz, Jonathan Butner, and student representative Djin Lin. Proposals will be funded in order of priority and within the availability of funds. The Executive Committee reserves the right to not fund proposals that do not meet a minimum standard of quality, even if funds are available. Committee members do not review proposals for which they are the PI or Co-Investigator.

Funding preference will be given to projects that have clear relevance to the scholarly and creative mission of the C-FAHR, have the potential to lead to future extramural funding, and that involve interdisciplin ary collaboration among C-FAHR affiliated members. The following specific criteria are used in ranking/rating proposals. These are not necessarily in order of priority. Fulfillment of all criteria is not required for any given proposal, but fulfillment of multiple criteria will improve a proposal’s priority score.

- Quality of design and methods
- Feasibility
- Availability of other resources (such as matched funds) to help complete the project
- Involvement of multiple C-FAHR faculty (new collaborations are especially encouraged)
- Multidisciplinary project
- Involvement of “new” researchers
- Contribution to building research collaborations for future work
- Contribution to the career trajectory of the PI, especially in regards to external research funding

If a proposal is not funded, brief written feedback from the C-FAHR Executive Committee will be given to the applicant, who has the option to apply again in a future funding cycle.
If Selected

PIs are encouraged to use C-FAHR student affiliates as research assistants, whenever possible.

All presentations and publications resulting from the award should formally recognize C-FAHR. This includes presentations, posters, or manuscripts. For example: “This study was supported (in part) by the Consortium for Families and Health Research at the University of Utah.”

At the completion of the project, the PI is required to submit a final report to the C-FAHR Executive Committee describing the progress and outcome of the project, including the accomplishment of the specific outcome(s) designated in the request letter, or in extenuating circumstances, an alternative timeline or outcome. Please note specifically the submission of relevant manuscripts or grant applications. Final reports should be brief (less than one single-spaced page) and submitted electronically.

To submit applications, final reports, or for general inquiries:

Rebecca Utz  
rebecca.utz@utah.edu  
801 585 5496

Note: Future submission dates will be announced later, pending availability of funds after this initial cycle.