Pilot Research Funds

During Spring 2017, pilot funds will be used to support research conducted by faculty affiliates 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, with a special focus oriented toward providing key pilot data for securing external funding. Highest priority will be given to proposals that deal with the two themes of C-FAHR: 1) understanding how the family promotes good health (or puts individuals at risk) at some part during the life span and/or 2) understanding how the family facilitates the management of chronic illnesses at points during the life span.

Pilot Grants are intended to support faculty-led research efforts that will lead to new proposals for extramural funding in the future. Only C-FAHR affiliated faculty members can apply. 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. Priority will be given to faculty teams that have a specific program announcement or RFA that they are targeting. Project grants cannot exceed $20,000. There may be adjustments to the budget depending on the number of proposals submitted. Applications are due March 1st, with award letters available by March 10th.

To Apply

Prepare a 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 any specific program announcement to which the eventual external grant will be directed. 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 proposal 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 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

The PI must also be a faculty member at the University of Utah. Teams, however, may include collaborators at other universities who are not C-FAHR members.
Application Review

Proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by the C-FAHR Executive Committee. 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 interdisciplinary 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 projects
- 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. Students who are supported on the C-FAHR pilot grants, should submit an application to be a C-FAHR member.

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. PI will also be required to present at an upcoming C-FAHR event.

To submit applications or final reports send to C-FAHR-info@utah.edu. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Berg (Cynthia.Berg@psych.utah.edu) or Becky Utz (Rebecca.utz@utah.edu).