



SCHOOL OF **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Research Pilot Grant Award Program

Request for Proposals

The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Research Pilot Grant Award program is intended to grow collaborative research among OHSU and PSU faculty. Proposals should be directed at pilot data collection to establish proof of concept for an extramural funding application within 1-2 years of the award. While proposals directed at securing pilot proof of concept data for a future NIH award will be prioritized, applications to secure pilot funding for any future extramural award are encouraged.

Proposals must include two Co-principal investigators (Co-PI); one employed by PSU and one employed by OHSU. *At least one Co-PI must have a primary appointment in the SPH.* If one Co-PI has a primary appointment outside the SPH, the non-primary faculty must submit a letter of support from their department chair that the follow-on grant described in the proposal will be submitted through the SPH. **Proposals may request up to \$50,000 in total costs.** Proposals are limited to 5 pages single spaced, 12-point font with 1 inch margins.

Proposal Format

- Background, Significance and Impact
- Specific Aims
- Approach
- Research Group
- Future Funding Plan (RFA/PA, institute, date of submission)
- Budget

Review Criteria

Projects are not required to have preliminary data, but may provide published data using similar proposed approaches in different populations as justification for the approach. Proposals will be evaluated by an external review committee based on seven criteria as listed below:

1. Significance

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

2. Investigator(s)

Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have

advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

3. Innovation

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methods, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

4. Approach

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as gender, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

5. Environment

Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

6. Likelihood of future funding

Is there an identified program announcement or request for applications? Does the project timeline coincide with the PA/RFA? What is the applicant's track record securing extramural funding from this agency and from comparable agencies? If the applicant is an early stage investigator, and does not have prior funding from the agency, does the applicant have a publication record that would support funding from the agency? What is the evidence that the topic is a stable or a growing priority for the funding agency?

7. Overall Impact

The likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the above review criteria.

Due Date

Applications are due on Feb 1, 2017 and notification of award will be March 1, 2017 such that funds should be available May, 2017. Please submit your proposal to our Associate Dean for Research, Thomas Becker at beckert@ohsu.edu.