

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

'Advancing Health Equity and Social Justice' Pilot Grants

SUMMARY

The Chancellor, Senior Vice Chancellors, and Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion (VCDI) at Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences (RBHS) are pleased to announce this opportunity for the '**Advancing Health Equity and Social Justice**' Pilot Grants. These pilot grants will support efforts for community-engaged scholarship to address racial inequities and advance health equity and social justice in NJ.

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

As part of one of the nation's most diverse universities, RBHS has diversity and inclusion as a key foundational element of its strategic plan and is dedicated to maintaining a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and community engagement. The RBHS community will respond to and help lead societal changes demanded by the recent social unrest arising from the racially motivated violence resulting in the loss of Black lives as well as the magnified racial disparities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic from which our Communities of Color face disproportionate and adverse health and financial outcomes. Many health and social disparities arise from different underlying patterns of risk rooted in the structural or systemic racism and other social determinants of health that include living and working conditions, educational opportunities, neighborhood characteristics, financial issues, and access to medical care.

We seek proposals for projects and activities that move RBHS community values from ideals to actions with emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly underserved groups with racial inequities. The '**Advancing Health Equity and Social Justice**' Pilot Grants are intended to increase effective community outreach to diverse NJ populations and enhance engagement strategies to improve population health through collaborative, community-based research that establishes and empowers teams dedicated to promoting health equity and social justice. This important initiative will promote well-being and advance social justice by building or enhancing teams focused on health equity-focused research and to provide support for the rapid acquisition of preliminary data and proof-of-concept evidence for extramural funding applications. The proposed pilot projects should encourage evidence-based approaches to increase collaborations with community-based leaders and organizations, invest in community-based efforts to promote equity and diversity, and support programs that expand our understanding of the many social, economic and environmental factors that shape health and empower healthy communities. It is expected that the efforts supported by this pilot mechanism will lead to additional state, federal or foundation support to sustain them.

OPPORTUNITY

This opportunity is available for RBHS faculty to support the development of early stage ideas or new collaborations with communities to promote health equity and social justice. Pilot grants will be considered that address one of the three general emphasis areas:

- 1) **Identify novel approaches for advancing equity and reducing health disparities** among NJ vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly underserved groups with racial inequities.
- 2) **Implement policies, partnerships, or practices in NJ to advance health equity and social justice** in the opportunities and resources needed to be healthy and eliminate unfair conditions that give rise to the inequities.
- 3) **Evaluate and monitor strategies to reduce health disparities in NJ** using short- and long-term outcome measures comparing differences between advantaged and disadvantaged groups.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the significance of the challenges the proposal addresses, the innovative nature of the solution(s) proposed, and evidence of the strength of the community partnership. Additionally, the background and composition of the team, coherence of the work plan, likelihood of identified future extramural funding, and overall impact of the project will be assessed by the review panel.

It is expected that the proposed project shall be completed within a calendar year from the date of award and that the award will normally lead to the submission of an extramural application for funding within 12-18 months of the award. Additionally, faculty and community partners should be prepared to present their preliminary work approximately 6 months from the time of the award in the context of a Rutgers-sponsored forum or workshop.

Budget requests up to \$10,000 may be allocated per team, commensurate with the scope of the proposal. All programmatic costs must be justified, including limited support of staff, undergraduate and graduate student assistants, and qualified consultants. RBHS faculty salaries and indirect costs are not supported.

We have partnered with the [NJACTS Community Outreach Core](#)'s Partnership and Innovation Accelerator Pilot Program to review and award these proposals to advance health equity and social justice. A required Letter of Intent is due August 7, 2020 and the Application deadline is August 31, 2020 (midnight).

For more information on how to apply, visit: <https://njacts.rbhs.rutgers.edu/community/>

2020 Partnership and Innovation Accelerator Pilot Program

Apply for up to \$10k to facilitate collaboration with local organizations on health research that benefits our communities.

[Go to Partnership and Innovation Accelerator Pilot Program](#)
