



UVA Precision Health Initiative Collaborative Faculty Research Grant Program 2024 Request for Proposals

Key Dates: Letters of Intent (LOI) are required, and due by April 16 each year. Feedback and invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent by May 1. Proposals are accepted once a year on June 15 and will then be reviewed. Notice of awards will be made by July 15 with funding expected to begin by July 30 of each year.

Internal Submission Deadline for LOI: April 16, 2024

Internal Submission Deadline for Proposal: June 15, 2024

Details:

Administrator(s): Grand Challenges, Precision Health Initiative (PHI)

Category: Faculty Collaborative Grants

Cycle: FY2025

Topic Area of the research: Cancer or youth mental health

Number of Possible Awardees: Minimum 2

Total funding available per Awardee: Up to \$450,000 in total direct costs over 3 years, up to \$150,000 in total direct costs per year.

Description:

Purpose: The goal of this funding opportunity is to build new research collaborations related to Precision Health topics among researchers and clinical leaders at UVA via transdisciplinary research funding to jumpstart research that will drive innovation and facilitate the translation of research findings into clinical practice and provide benefits to communities. This funding is designed to support:

- Research projects with partners from at least 3 different fields of study and/or areas of expertise.
- Research to explore or address health disparities and/or health equity. For definitions, please see: <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/minority-health-and-health-disparities-definitions.html> and <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11121-022-01462-5>
- Ongoing or creating new community-University partnerships
- Efforts to inform or evaluate community/population health interventions. Etiologic research without a potential to inform a population-level intervention will be considered non-responsive.

About the Precision Health Initiative: The Precision Health Initiative (PHI) at UVA supports transdisciplinary research and training to optimize health outcomes for individuals and entire populations, across a wide range of complex and chronic diseases. While *Precision Medicine* measures

genes and disease factors to help doctors identify unique disease risks and find treatments that will work best for a person, *Precision Health* adds assessment of environments and lifestyles and identifies treatments or prevention strategies that will work best with the fewest side effects, based on each person's unique background and conditions. *Precision Health for Populations* is even broader, including precision medicine, disease prevention, and health promotion for whole communities, outside doctor's offices, or hospital settings. *Precision Health for Populations* collects data that can identify how everyone can protect their own family's health, and strategies experts can take to promote health and well-being at individual, family, community, state, or national levels. The goal of the PHI is to promote research that will engage populations in Virginia to generate new discoveries that could improve the health of all Virginians.

PHI-supported faculty will address the challenges of acquiring, managing, and studying large scale population-level data on health, and other layers of data that surround people and communities including educational experiences, environmental exposures, personal or family behaviors such as diet, physical activity, sleep, employment, and healthcare access/utilization, and other community characteristics that affect health.

PHI scientists will develop and extend equitable partnerships with communities, policymakers, and stakeholders around Central Virginia to address two initial focus areas, cancer and youth mental health across Virginia, through community-University partnerships focused on addressing health inequities in these areas. Some PHI scientists will lay the groundwork required to create cohorts of Virginia residents willing to be followed across their lifespan by contributing multiple "layers" of data from existing and future medical records, educational records, community records, and lifestyle and behavioral data.

Award Amount and Term: The maximum allowed budget is up to \$150,000 of total direct costs per project per year, for up to three years.

Eligibility: At least three collaborators (faculty and/or community members) need to be included on each submission. Applications with junior faculty as leads are strongly encouraged.

Review Criteria:

- Standard NIH Scoring with additional consideration for:
 - Extent of collaboration with the study team
 - Level of involvement with communities
 - Level of expressed commitment to community engaged health disparities research and/or diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
 - Alignment to goals and mission of the PHI
 - Potential for future funding

LOI Requirements: A LOI (2- page maximum) is required in advance of a full application. The LOI needs to describe the research question and project, disparity being addressed, study team/expertise (scientists and community partners), community involvement, and an estimated overall budget. It is due by 11:59 PM on April 16, 2024 and should be emailed to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu).

Confirmation of LOI receipt will be sent within 24 hours. Feedback and invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent by May 1.

Proposal Requirements: Unless otherwise noted, use NIH formatting guidelines and standard forms. Submit all components as a single PDF file to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu) by 11:59 PM, June 15, 2024. Confirmation of proposal receipt will be sent within 24 hours.

All applications must include:

1. Lay abstract – Describe the project for a general audience in 2-3 sentences
2. Biosketches, or up-to 5 page resume if available, for all key personnel
3. Budget (use the attached template) and justification
 - a. NIH salary caps apply and faculty salary support is not to exceed 20% effort or more than half of the total project award amount
 - b. No indirect costs are allowed to be included in the budget
 - c. Department Chair or Associate Dean’s approval is also needed specifying that they approve the application and understand that indirect rates cannot be included in the budget for the application. A signature from Department Chair or Associate Dean is required on Page 1 of the budget.
 - d. For questions about budget preparation, please reach out to Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu).
4. Research Proposal – 5-page limit to include the following (12 point font):
 - Specific Aims (one page)
 - Background and Significance
 - Innovation/Impact
 - Research Strategy/Approach
 - Community Collaboration Plan - Describe the extent of the current community collaborations relevant to the proposed work and how the proposed work will enhance existing or create new community-University collaborations
 - Future Directions –Describe how this award will provide necessary data to obtain extramural funding that could lead to an intervention in the community, including plans for future applications to specific agencies
5. Data Management Plan – In addition to typical data management specifics, please also address how the study and/or data will be registered with UVA’s Research Data Enclave (see below for details, one page limit)
6. Timeline/Milestones (separate one page limit, with key deliverables and project milestones)
7. Expertise, Structure of the Study Team, and Project Management Plan (one page limit)
8. Cited References (no page limit)
9. Facilities and Other Resources – describe services at UVA that will be used for the project, if relevant (one page limit)
10. Letter of support from community partner(s) involved in this proposal (no page limit)

Award Terms:

1. Funds will be released yearly. For example a 3-year award would be released as follows:

- Start of award
 - Upon review of the Year 1 milestone report
 - Upon review of the Year 2 milestone report
2. Milestone reports will be required 12 and 24 months after the start of the award
 - 1-page synopsis of progress toward milestones including list of collaborators, resource usage, publications, grant applications, and grants awarded. If milestones outlined in proposal were not achieved, provide a detailed explanation and plan for the remaining award term.
 3. Final progress report required 30 days after end of project period, and annual publication and funding updates will be required for 5 years. Template will be provided.
 4. Unused funds at the end of the award period will be returned to the PHI. Awardees may request one no-cost extension. Requests must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to end of grant period.
 5. The PHI must be acknowledged in all resulting publications. Additional details to be provided.
 6. Awardees may be called upon to serve as reviewers for future PHI awards and present research at PHI events for up to 3 years after close of award.
 7. Awardees must agree to participate in sharing their study record and/or data in the Research Data Enclave, working with the PHI to do so. Additional details to be provided.
 8. Grantees will be asked to participate in a brief community health equity training (1-2 hours), with specific relevant training determined after receipt of the award in collaboration with the PHI.

Research Data Enclave: The Research Data Enclave is a service for the UVA research community being developed by the [iTHRIV Initiative](#). This service allows researchers to register their studies, making information and findings publicly available, as well as allows researchers to register and upload their data while retaining full control over permissions and accessibility. One advantage of this system is cross-study integration of non-sensitive information (such as integrating environmental factors collected in one study into other studies that collected data from the shared location). To receive pilot funds from the PHI, we require proposed projects to, at minimum, register their studies with the Research Data Enclave, and preferably to upload collected data to the Enclave. The Data Management Plan should also include how the team plans to work with the Research Data Enclave. For questions about the Enclave, and to get started with registering studies/uploading data, please contact: iTHRIVAdmin@virginia.edu.

Contact person for inquiries about this RFA: Casandra Hoffman (clh4he@virginia.edu)

For more information on PHI at UVA, see the PHI website at:
[PRECISION HEALTH FOR POPULATIONS | Research \(virginia.edu\)](#)