



NACP CALL FOR PILOT PROPOSALS

For the September 2016 – August 2017 Proposal Cycle

Letter of Intent Due: October 14, 2016; Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2017

In order to identify one or more collaborative cancer-related research project(s), to be funded starting September 1, 2017, the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) invites Letters of Intent from interested investigator teams. The NACP is working to define and eliminate obstacles to health equity in areas of Native American cancer incidence, mortality, survivorship, and representation. The NACP, funded by the NIH National Cancer Institute (#U54CA143924 and #U54CA143925), is an interdisciplinary and collaborative program among Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and Native American communities. Its mission is to alleviate the unequal burden of cancer among Native Americans of the Southwest through research, training and outreach programs that are collaborative with the communities they serve. The most recent guidelines for this Partnership are published in **PAR-12-055** and are attached. The PAR for more recent Partnerships can also be viewed through the NIH website at <http://www.nih.gov/>.

NACP GOALS – All efforts within the NACP are aimed toward the following goals:

1. To foster and support culturally appropriate research capacity at our institutions through research projects, faculty recruitment and faculty development.
2. To honor the culture of the Native American communities we serve by providing opportunities to integrate their values, beliefs and needs into every aspect of NACP.
3. To increase the number of culturally competent biomedical researchers and health workers by increasing the number of Native American students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty trained in cancer prevention, cancer control, and cancer-related health care policy.

The NACP welcomes applications for collaborative basic or translational research projects addressing cancer prevention or control. Projects involving behavioral or population science are encouraged, as are projects focusing on the Navajo, Hopi, or Tohono O’odham reservation communities. All projects must be co-led by at least one investigator at NAU and at least one investigator at UACC. **We seek to provide seed funding for projects that will develop to apply for future external support.**

LETTER OF INTENT – Interested investigators planning to submit new proposals should submit a letter of intent that briefly describes the nature and scope of the project (1 paragraph) and the names and contact information of the co-investigators from NAU and UACC. Because applications will also be reviewed by external reviewers, we ask that the LOIs also list the names and contact information for one or more potential external (outside of both NAU and UA) reviewers with expertise appropriate to the project. Please note that investigators who have a proposal idea but who have not yet identified a collaborator at the partner institution are encouraged to contact the Research Development Core PI’s Laura Huenneke (laura.huenneke@nau.edu) or Jesse Martinez (JMartinez@uacc.arizona.edu) *before* the above deadline. The NACP will work with interested investigators to find collaborators at NAU or UACC, and to develop competitive proposals. LOIs should be emailed to Ms. Maria Jackson (Maria.Jackson@nau.edu) by **5 pm on Friday, October 14, 2016**. We will acknowledge receipt of your LOI immediately, and you will receive a formal response to the LOI from Drs. Huenneke and Martinez by November 2, 2016.

NEW PILOT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS (CALL FOR PROPOSALS) – We anticipate having funds to initiate 1-3 new pilot projects/programs in September 2017. Projects/Programs may be funded for up to \$120,000 per year in total direct costs to be shared between NAU and UACC, for no more than TWO years, with renewal for the second year contingent on project productivity. The usual funding ratio is 50% to NAU and 50% to UACC. Individual budgets should be calculated for each institution. (Pilot projects may not continue past the expiration of current NACP funding, August 31, 2019.)

FULL PROJECTS (CALL FOR PROPOSALS) – We anticipate having funds to support 1-2 new full projects starting in September 2017. Projects may be funded for up to \$250,000 per year in total direct costs to be shared between NAU and UACC, for no more than TWO years, with renewal for the second year contingent on project productivity. The usual funding ratio is 50% to NAU and 50% to UACC. Individual budgets should be calculated for each institution. (Full projects may not continue past the expiration of current NACP funding, August 31, 2019.)

PROPOSAL FORMAT – Proposals should follow the NIH format for the PHS 398 Research Plan for an R21 application. Details may be found in **PAR 12-055** and in the **NIH PHS 398** Instructions. Proposals should contain the following sections:

- **Title Page and Specific Aims** (1 page limit): Title of project, names of co-leaders from both partner institutions, and specific aims stating the objectives of the project.
- **Relevance to NACP** (1 page limit): Describe how this project will advance the overall goals of the NACP and how Native American students/investigators/collaborators will be involved. (See below for information on research priorities for American Indian communities in Arizona, based on exchanges with our Community Action Committee and the work of our Outreach Core.)
- **Budget Pages:** For initial and entire proposed period of support, consisting of a different budget for each institution (*NIH PHS 398 Sections 4.4-4.5*)
- **NIH Biosketch Forms:** For all senior/key personnel and other significant contributors (*NIH PHS 398 Section 4.6*)
- **NIH Other Support Pages:** For all senior/key personnel and other significant contributors (*NIH PHS 398 Section 4.6.1*)
- **Research Strategy** (no more than 6 pages for a pilot project, no more than 12 pages for a full project) to include:
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Preliminary Studies
 - Approach
 - Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources (1 page)

Please note that NIH is now requiring that the research strategy section of proposals should explicitly address rigor and reproducibility – in particular, the strengths and weaknesses of the background information underlying your scientific premise, the rigor of your experimental design to ensure robust and unbiased results, consideration of relevant biological variables, and authentication of any key biological and/or chemical resources. More information on these new requirements can be found at <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility> .

Notes: (1) Other Sections of PHS 398 (*Sections 5.5.4-5.5.15*) must also be completed if applicable but are excluded from page limitations. Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans (Data Sharing Plan, Sharing Model Organisms, and Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS)) as provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide. (2) Any research involving human subjects will require IRB approval. (3) Any research involving Native American participants will be required to follow ABOR and university policy on Tribal Consultation.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PILOT AND FULL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS – Proposals will be critiqued using the NIH scoring system:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_system_and_procedure.pdf

Proposals will be evaluated based on (1) scientific merit of the research project, (2) strength of the project team, (3) potential of the proposed project to garner independent external support, (4) relevance to Native American cancer related health concerns (see below), and (5) overall quality of the written application. Frequent reasons for a project to not achieve a fundable score are: (1) low scientific merit; (2) low relevance to the objectives of the partnership; (3) low potential to develop into an externally funded project/program through competitive peer review.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES IN ARIZONA – Some of the priority areas identified during our conversations with Community Action Committee members and community partners include:

- Cancer prevention programs, including those that incorporate traditional cultural practices and/or traditional healing (e.g., consumer education regarding healthy foods, effectiveness of traditional healing, translation of cancer information into native languages and digital formats, targeting youths for screening or for tobacco uptake control and cessation, “train the trainer” programs for cancer education interventions in communities, media and social media approaches to cancer education and advocacy, assessments of cancer health literacy and links to screening rates and/or health outcomes)
- Cancer survivorship issues (e.g., traditional foods for people undergoing treatments, patient navigation programs in Indian health care systems, family models of treatment and care, case management approaches)
- Cancer epidemiology, surveillance, and measurement (improving quality and quantity of cancer data in AZ communities; approaches to measuring cultural concepts)
- Impact of historical trauma on AIAN health and cancer disparities
- Individual health of cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members; factors influencing patient compliance or persistence with treatment; issues influencing provision of care (geography, economics, language barriers, cultural factors)
- Environmental causes and correlates of cancer (uranium and other mining issues and impacts, indoor air quality related to wood smoke and heating/cooling, water quality, climate change)
- Dissemination and implementation science (indigenous evaluation methods, community advocacy and outreach effectiveness, closing the loop by sharing research findings with community)
- Resilience (resilience and health promotion)
- Policy-focused research (community involvement in identifying needs, collaborating in research design and execution, feedback to policy makers in community, development and validation of indigenous health indices or indicators)
- Clinical trials (e.g., side effects of breast cancer treatments, environmental exposures and correlation with cancer)

While the following topics are not strictly cancer research topics, please know that these are topics of great interest to our community partners and there might be value in potential projects integrating some aspect of these topics with a more focused cancer research theme:

- Delivery of cancer education aimed at increasing community readiness to conduct research and to undertake cancer prevention and control programs
- Non-cancer topics of major interest (obesity, diabetes, and other metabolic disorders; asthma prevention and control; domestic violence and sexual assault; substance abuse and mental health)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION – Proposals are due electronically by **5 pm on Wednesday, March 1**. One complete application package should be submitted by each pair of investigators. Applications should be submitted to Ms. Maria Jackson (Maria.Jackson@nau.edu) at NACP. After review by *ad hoc* (external) reviewers and by our Internal Advisory Committee and Program Steering Committee, proposers will receive feedback and copies of reviews on or before June 1, 2017.

Proposals chosen for inclusion with our Research Productivity Progress Report and subsequently approved by NCI will be funded for a project start date of September 1, 2017. We expect that pilot projects launched September 1, 2017, will be eligible to receive two years of support (that is, to be funded through August 31, 2019) if suitable progress is made. Investigator teams supported on these pilot projects would be eligible to submit proposals for full projects (larger funding totals) on the occasion of NACP submitting its next competitive renewal proposal.

Proposals not funded through NACP for a September 2017 start date will be considered for assistance in revising and submitting to NCI or other funding agencies through alternative mechanisms.