

Center for Health Equity Research

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSORS AND SENIOR POST-DOCS:

Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative (SHERC) CALL FOR PILOT PROJECT PROPOSALS (Tracks I AND II)

Pilot Project Program (PPP) Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Cycle
Letter of Intent Due Date: September 30, 2020
Full Proposal Deadline: January 8, 2021

The Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative (SHERC)

[The Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative](#) (SHERC) is a grant-funded cooperative agreement initiative of the [Center for Health Equity Research](#) at Northern Arizona University. SHERC is supported by funding from the [National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#) of the [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH #U54MD012388). SHERC focuses on increasing the health research capacity at NAU through basic biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research to address health disparities among diverse populations of the Southwestern United States. The most recent guidelines for this Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) U54 Partnership are published in [RFA-MD-20-006](#).

SHERC Investigator Development Core Pilot Project Program

SHERC's Investigator Development Core (IDC) supports the development of early career investigators conducting health equity research in the areas of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences at Northern Arizona University.

Primary Goals of SHERC's Investigator Development Core are:

1. Enhance institutional research capacity at NAU within the areas of basic biomedical, behavioral, and/or clinical research or trial. *Clinical research aims to advance medical knowledge by studying people, either through direct interaction or indirectly through the collection and analysis of blood, tissues, or other samples. A clinical trial involves research participants and follows a protocol to evaluate the effects of an intervention on health outcomes.*
2. Enable junior investigators to become successful in obtaining competitive extramural support, especially from NIH, particularly on diseases, public health conditions, and access to care issues that disproportionately impact minority and other health disparity populations.
3. Foster environments conducive to career enhancement with a special emphasis on development of new and early career investigators.
4. Enhance the quality of all scientific inquiry and promote research on minority health and health disparities.
5. Establish sustainable relationships with community-based organizations.

The **Pilot Project Program (PPP)** was established under the IDC to provide funding and mentoring to junior investigators, with the objective of generating preliminary data that will increase investigators' competitiveness for external funding in health equity-related research.

The PPP provides initial seed funding for junior investigators, including assistant professors, assistant research professors and senior post-doctoral scholars to establish new impactful programs in health disparities research, with priority given to exemplary projects that address diseases that disproportionately impact health disparity populations, and lead to development and support of sustainable relationships with community-based partners.

We are especially interested in research proposals that involve: 1) clinical research/trials; 2) multidisciplinary collaborative teams; and/or 3) social determinants of health, such as community and economic development or housing and health. Projects with a focus on one or more of these research areas are encouraged to apply.

Applying to the SHERC Pilot Project Program (PPP):

SHERC welcomes applications from assistant professors, assistant research professors and senior post-doctoral scholars for the **Pilot Project Program (PPP), Tracks I and II.**

Applying to the SHERC PPP is a two-step process:

1. **Submission of a letter of intent (LOI).** LOI is reviewed and if accepted, invited for full proposal submission.
2. **Full proposal submission**

Funding:

Track I, Preliminary Studies Awards will provide up to \$50,000 for one year. The funding cycle is **July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.**

Track II, Resubmission Awards will provide up to \$50,000 for one year for projects described in previously submitted proposals that have undergone external review but require revision and resubmission. Applicants need to demonstrate how the SHERC funds will make the resubmission more competitive. The funding cycle is **July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.**

Eligibility:

Assistant professors, assistant research professors, and senior post-doctoral scholars who are both (1) NAU regular, benefit eligible, employees, and (2) eligible to serve as Principal Investigators/Project Directors on extramural grants may apply for these awards.

An investigator (as PI) will be required to have at least 30% release time for research and scholarship defined in their Statement of Expectations (SOE). For Co-I's, the review committee will look at level of effort proposed for their role, and what other current and pending support they have.

An investigator (as PI) may submit only one proposal per round and may be included as co-investigator on only one active SHERC project per round. An investigator (as PI) may not hold more than one type of pilot project (Tracks I or II) or SHERC research project during any one funding year. An investigator (as PI) may only serve as PI on a funded pilot project one time. For reporting purposes, each award will have only one PI of record.

Letter of Intent Guidelines:

Please prepare an LOI according to the following instructions:

1. 2 page limit
2. Title of the proposed project at the top of the document

3. Briefly describe the nature and scope of the project to include:
 - a) goals of the proposed research
 - b) objectives of the research proposed (e.g. to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop a new technology)
 - c) summary of the expected outcome, including impact of the results in the research field(s) involved
 - d) how the objectives align with the goals of SHERC's IDC Core
4. Names and contact information of the PI and Co-Investigators at the bottom of the document

Letter of Intent Deadline:

Letter of Intent is due **Wednesday, September 30, 2020** at 5pm.

The LOI document should be submitted as a PDF file and saved as follows: SHERC_Y5_LastName_PPP_LOI, and emailed by 5pm on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 to Christine.Smith@nau.edu.

Full Proposal Guidelines:

Full proposal guidelines will be sent to those LOI that were accepted and invited for full proposal submission.

Full Proposal Deadline:

Full Proposal is due **Friday, January 8, 2021** at 5pm.

Questions?

Please contact Christine.Smith@nau.edu, 928-523-5297.

Please see the [PPP webpage](#) for a complete program description and information on currently funded pilot projects.