

Regional Centers of Research Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases Planning Grants

Shannon L. Silkensen, PhD
Center for Global Health
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-15-007.html>

RCRE Planning Grant Purpose

To plan and design sustainable, Regional Centers of Research Excellence (RCREs) for non-communicable diseases, including cancer, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) or regions

Applicants should demonstrate the ability to undertake high-quality, well-coordinated, collaborative research on NCDs in LMICs that engages all investigators and stakeholders

RCRE Planning Grant: Eligible Individuals and Institutions

1. RFA 15-007 uses the NIH multiple-PI mechanism
 - a. One PI must be from an HIC or UMIC
 - i. This includes investigators in the NIH Intramural Research Program (NIH IRP)
 - b. One PI must be from an LMIC
 - c. Either PI can serve as the contact PI. Contact PIs in LMICs are encouraged
 - i. If one PI is from the NIH IRP (the HIC/UMIC PI), the LMIC PI must serve as the contact PI

RCRE Planning Grant: Example RCRE Institutional Partnerships

1. Type 1a:

- a. US (H)
- b. Panama (UM)

2. Type 1b:

- a. Australia (H)
- b. Indonesia (LM)

1. Type 1c:

- a. US (H)
- b. Australia (H)
- c. Indonesia (LM)
- d. Tonga (UM)

RCRE Planning Grant: Example RCRE Institutional Partnerships

1. Type 2:
 - a. South Africa (UM)
 - b. Zimbabwe (L)
2. Type 3:
 - a. Multiple sites
within Brazil (UM)

RCRE Planning Grant: Duration and Funding

1. Maximum project period is 2 years
2. Maximum budgets are \$200,000 in direct costs per year
3. At least 60% of the proposed direct cost budget must be for costs in the LMIC
 - a. If an investigator from the NIH IRP serves as the HIC/UMIC PI on an award, 100% of the proposed direct cost budget must be for costs in the LMIC(s) because NIH IRP investigators cannot receive monies from the award
 - b. If the RCRE takes place among institutions in UMIC, the lead UMIC institution(s) receives 40% of the direct cost budget and the partner UMIC institution(s) receives 60% of the direct cost budget
4. F&A costs requested by consortium participants are not included in the direct cost limitation

RCRE Planning Grant Research Strategy

1. Propose at least two scientifically compelling NCD-focused research programs that address locally-relevant NCDs
 - a. One NCD must be cancer
 - b. For this planning grant, the other NCD(s) must be a chronic disease; one that is not passed from person to person
 - c. Research programs must be disease focused, not risk factor focused
2. Propose at least three shared resources to support those research programs
3. Propose research enhancement activities to complement the proposed research programs

Core Support Functions of the RCRE

1. Ethics committee
2. Biospecimen collection(s)
3. Data and specimen management, storage, and sharing
4. Administrative oversight
5. Biostatistics and informatics

RCRE Planning Grant Internal Coordination Strategy

1. Internal operations and communications
e.g. direct physical interactions, remote communications, usage of virtual space
2. Transparent and efficient administrative practices
3. Robust general and specialized data systems for financial and grants management data, personnel, and resources

RCRE Planning Grant External Coordination Strategy

1. Conduct a Needs Assessment and engage the community so that the research focuses on the local NCD needs
2. Evaluate the quality, value, and scientific impact the planned RCRE will have on the LMICs in the region

RCRE Planning Grant: Project Goal

A Plan for a Regional Center of Research Excellence

1. A well-conceived research plan that specifies the short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes of the research program;
2. The projected impact of the research on the region;
3. A completed local needs assessment;
4. A multidisciplinary research enhancement activity plan;
5. A well-justified plan for consolidating existing or opening new shared core facilities; and
6. Concrete metrics for monitoring and evaluating the quality, value, and scientific impact of the RCRE

RCRE Planning Grant: Project Goals

At the end of the planning grant period

1. Awardees will have completed at least one small, joint NCD-focused research project of relevance to the LMIC investigators
2. Selected RCRE awardees will be visited to provide clarification and evidence of their RCRE plan

RCRE Planning Grant: Specific Review Criteria

1. How does the proposed RCRE framework serve the research needs of the region?
2. How will the roles, responsibilities, and division of labor among all project staff and each partner institution meet the stated goals of the RCRE planning grant?
3. Does the planning involve innovative ideas of developing a RCRE that is unique in its mission, approach, and delivery?

RCRE Planning Grant: Specific Review Criteria

4. How reasonable and feasible are the proposed planning activities?
5. How will the institutional support contribute to the success of the RCRE planning grant?
6. How well does the proposed plan integrate with other Research Programs in the region? How well does the plan further the region's organizing framework?

RCRE Planning Grant: Timeline and Milestones

RFA Released
Sept. 14, 2015

1st round of
applications due
Dec. 10, 2015

Earliest start date
for 1st round
awardees
July, 2016

2nd round of
applications due
Aug. 23, 2016

Earliest start date
for 2nd round
awardees
April, 2017

RCRE Planning Grant: Questions and Contacts

NCI Center for Global Health
National Institutes of Health
240.276.5810

Shannon L. Silkensen, PhD
shannon.silkensen@nih.gov

John S. Flanigan, MD
john.flanigan@nih.gov

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