



## Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE) (U54) ([PAR-15-103](#)): Frequently Asked Questions

Funding Opportunity Announcement Link: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-103.html>

### Eligibility Information

1. Is [PAR-15-103](#), Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE) (U54) a limited competition?

No, it is open to all qualified applicants; however, this FOA is targeted to past and current awardees of the Comprehensive partnership program (supported by either U54 or U56 awards) and similar partnerships. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Drs. [John Ojeifo](#) (240-276-6186) or [Yolanda Vallejo-Estrada](#) (240-276-5187) before applying.

2. Is [PAR-15-103](#) limited to partnerships between Institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers (CC)?

Yes.

3. Can institutions apply if they are not officially a minority-serving institution, but have students/staff with diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds?

No.

4. Can a partnership apply if they have not historically focused on cancer health disparities, but they intend to do so, moving forward?

Yes.

5. Can an institution/Cancer Center that has not been previously funded by NCI/CRCHD apply?

Yes.

6. Can a Cancer Center that is in the process of becoming NCI-designated apply?

No.

7. Does the designated contact PD/PI have to be an established investigator with active competitive research support, such as R01 grants or equivalent peer-reviewed funding?

While this is the preferred scenario, less experienced investigators may serve in this role. Please see Section IV “Institutional Investment in the Success of Less Experienced Investigators” for further information.

8. If I serve as lead PI of a component, can I still serve as a co-Investigator on a research project?

Yes.

### Application and Submission Information

1. Is electronic submission required?

Yes.



**2. Is a letter of intent required prior to application submission?**

No; however, it is strongly recommended.

**3. Regarding page limits, 12 pages are allotted for Shared Resources, 12 pages for the Outreach Core and 12 pages for the Planning & Evaluation, is this correct?**

Yes, 12 pages are allotted to each section: Shared Resources, Outreach Core, and the Planning & Evaluation Core.

**4. The FOA refers to the need for biosketches for PD/PIs and Senior/Key persons listed in the applications, including program faculty who have roles in the proposed Research Education Core. Are biosketches for project/core co-Investigators and members of our Internal Advisory Committee and Program Steering Committee NOT required?**

Biosketches for Internal Advisory Committee members **are not required if they are not members** of the Administrative Core, Research Projects, or Research Education Core teams.

Biosketches **are required** for the project/core co-Investigators and new members of the Program Steering Committee because they are key personnel.

**5. Specific to the investigators, do project/core “co-investigators” refer to both co-leaders and co-investigators?** In addition to project/core co-leaders (i.e. the lead investigator at each partnering institution responsible for a project/core), we have co-Investigators named on our pilot project, full project, and at least a couple of our cores.

No. There are co-Leads who are leaders of the Cores or projects and there are co-Investigators who are researchers in the projects.

If your project/core “co-Investigators” are senior/key personnel, their biosketches must be provided.

**6. Can we provide additional information that did not fit within specified page limit in the Appendix?**

No, do not use the Appendix to circumvent page limits (see instructions in PAR-15-103).

**7. When a Senior/Key person is listed in multiple components, must a biosketch be included in each component?**

No, the application should contain a single biosketch for each Senior/Key person regardless of the number of components they participate in.

**8. Has the required Cancer Training component been removed from PAR-15-103?**

Yes. Please see the “Research Education Core” in Part 2 Section I of PAR-15-103.

**9. The current FOA encourages early application; should we wait until April 1, 2015 to submit or is better to submit the application by mid-March?**

Application submission is at your discretion up until April 1, 2015; however, early application would allow time for mitigation of technical difficulties.



**10. How many letters of support are applicants required to submit as part of the overall application?**

There is no limit and the letters can be included under the attachments section; however, their location must be specified.

**11. Given the length of progress reports and page limitations listed under the new FOA, can required progress reports be submitted in the Appendix?**

No, they should be in the “Other Attachments” in the Overall Component.

**12. Who do we contact if we are having difficulty uploading the Appendix?**

Please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov), or visit <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants> for technical assistance.

## Award Information

**Has the award budget changed?**

Yes, budgets are now limited to \$2.5 million in direct costs per year for dyads and \$3.0 million in direct costs for triads. Please see Section II (Award Information) under PAR-15-103.

## Administrative Core

**1. In the previous FOA, the Administrative Core was required to be different for each of the linked applications; however, this requirement is not specified in the current FOA. Is this still the case?**

No, but these cores should complement each other.

**2. Are biosketches required for Administrative Core key personnel?**

Yes, these can be provided in the Overall Component and their location should be referenced in the Administrative Core.

**3. If the lead PD/PI is not an established and competitively funded investigator, must we still include a 2-3 year professional development plan for that individual?**

No, but an “Institutional Investment” in their success must be provided as specified in Section IV’s Overall Component description.

**4. Are there changes in “Expected Effort Commitments” for the Leadership Team?**

Yes. If the single PD(s)/PI(s) option is used, the contact PD/PI from the ISUPS is expected to commit a maximum of 3 months effort per year; the Cancer Center contact PD/PI is expected to commit at least 1.2 months effort per year but not more than 3 months effort per year.

If the multiple PD(s)/PI(s) option is used, a minimum of 1.2 months effort per year is expected for the contact PD/PI from the ISUPS and Cancer Center.



- A maximum of 3 months effort per year at each institution for all other PD(s)/PI(s) combined is allowed.
- The total effort per year is limited to 6 months for the ISUPs and 4.2 months for the CC. These limits remain the same for triads.

**5. Under “Effort Commitments,” is the contact PD/PI from the ISUPS allowed a maximum of 3 months effort in a multiple PD/PI option?**

Yes.

**6. Is recruitment limited to Early Stage Investigators (ESIs)?**

No.

### Full & Pilot Research Projects

**Can a full or pilot research project involve Outreach Research?**

Yes, hypothesis-driven projects are encouraged. Please see PAR-15-103 for details.

### Shared Resource Core

**1. Can new resources be proposed?**

Yes, as long as they are tailored to the common objectives and priorities of the partnership.

**2. Is an institutional commitment to the resource(s) still required?**

Yes. Please submit letters of support relevant to the proposed core.

**3. The Shared Resource Core can be comprised of up to 3 shared resources; are 12 pages allowed for each resource?**

No, all shared resources must be described within 12 pages.

### Outreach Core

**1. Can a hypothesis-driven outreach research project be included in this section?**

No, these types of research projects are allowed (and encouraged) but must be described under the Full Research Project or Pilot Research Project components.

**2. Are CHEs still expected to devote approximately 6 person months to NCI activities with the remaining 6 person months dedicated to Partnership cancer outreach activities including planning and evaluation?**

Yes.

**3. Can there be two CHEs, one at each location, with six person months each?**

No, there should be one CHE that will function between the two institutions.

### Planning and Evaluation Core

**4. Is a project summary still required?**

Please follow the directions provided by ASSIST.



## Research Education Core

### 1. Can new cancer research education programs be proposed?

Yes, but the proposed educational experiences must be distinct from those research education programs currently receiving federal support.

### 2. What career levels are eligible to participate in research education programs?

High school, undergraduate, and pre-doctoral students as well as individuals at the post-doctoral, and early stage investigator (ESI) career levels.

### 3. Are clinical training programs at the CC, created to educate individuals from the partnering ISUPS, eligible under this core?

No. Training programs are not allowed. However, clinical programs that will be used to educate students, fellows and ESIs from the CC or the partnering ISUPS are allowed.

### 4. Are career development and mentoring plans required and where should this information be located within the application?

No; however, it is strongly recommended that candidate's background, career goals and objectives, research career enrichment activities during the award period be described together with other items specified in "Section IV PHS 398 Research Plan (Research Education Core)." This information should be located in the Research Education Core within the "Letters of Support" section of the application.

### 5. Is an evaluation plan for this core required?

Yes, it must specify baseline metrics (e.g., numbers, educational levels, and demographic characteristics of participants, program activities completed, degree completion (if applicable), publications, fellowships/honors, and subsequent positions), as well as measures to gauge the short and long-term success of the research education award in achieving its objectives.

### 6. What would be considered a successful education program?

Programs that lead to successful competitive training or education grant application awards (e.g., T32, K12, and R25 mechanisms), individual pre-doctoral fellowships (F31) awards, and career development awards (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K23, K22).

The development of institutionalized curricula should enhance education and research capacity at partner institutions.

### 7. If we are proposing a program dealing with research experience, should it be located within the Research Education Core?

Yes.

### 8. Does the Research Education Core allow for student tuition expenses?

Yes.



## Application Review Information

### Have changes been made to application review criteria?

Yes, please see the “Application Review Information” in Section V of PAR-15-103 for details.

## Administrative and National Policy Requirements

### 1. Are there any new stipulations regarding partnership meetings?

Yes, unwillingness or a consistent inability of a PD/PI to attend biennial PACHE workshop may be the basis for administrative action including termination of the award.

### 2. Is a Career Development and Mentoring Plan (CDMP) required for a project co-leader (investigator from the ISUPS or CC participating as PD/PI of a joint pilot/full project) that is an ESI?

No, but an “Institutional Investment” in the career of such individuals must be described as stated under “Overall Component” of PAR-15-103 (see Research and Related Other Project Information).

## Contact Information

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For questions regarding eRA Commons registration, submitting and tracking an application, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, post submission issues, contact eRA Commons Help Desk:

Telephone: 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 (Toll Free)  
Finding Help Online: <http://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html>  
Email: [commons@od.nih.gov](mailto:commons@od.nih.gov)

For questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact [Grants.gov Customer Support](#):

Contact Center Telephone: 800-518-4726  
Web ticketing system: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/ContactUs.aspx>  
Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

For questions regarding application instructions and process, finding NIH grant resources, contact GrantsInfo:

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