

Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy
University of Connecticut Health Center
Planning and Pilot Study Grants
2008 Request for Proposals

The Ethel Donaghue TRIPP Center, funded by the Donaghue Medical Research Center, is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for planning new research, proof of concept and pilot studies leading to grant applications relevant to translational and health policy research. Translational research supported through this grant aims at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community, including studies of the cost-effectiveness of prevention and treatment strategies. The goals of this grant program are:

1. To stimulate larger practice-oriented translational research projects led by interdisciplinary teams of researchers from within Connecticut;
2. To support established investigators to obtain preliminary data for extramural funding in translational research;
3. To contribute significantly to the scientific development of promising junior investigators in translational and health policy research; and
4. To develop and maintain collaborative academic partnerships with primary care physician groups and other community groups across the state.

The 2008 RFP requests applications for receipt of funds that will assist markedly in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications by an agreed upon timeline.

Proposals to pursue the collection of pilot or proof of concept data or to conduct collaborative planning for a specific research project will be accepted.

Qualified applicants: The 2008 planning grant awards will focus on funding translational research collaborations between community-based practitioners or policymakers and university-based researchers. Community-based practitioners may be located in primary care practices or networks, affiliated hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers or other community-based agencies. Policymakers may be associated with state agencies (e.g., the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, Social Services) or other governmental entities. Eligible university-based faculty may be from the University of Connecticut Health Center, the University of Connecticut at Storrs, or other academic institutions in the state. Applicants must demonstrate a clear working collaboration between the provider/policymaker and academic partners. Either and/or both parties can apply as Principal Investigator. The academic partner must hold a rank of Assistant Professor or higher. Community partners who would be Principal Investigator must have the qualifications to direct a research project.

Application requirements: Applications should describe the scope of work, its contribution to translational or health policy research, and its potential interest to a particular funding agency. The application should address how this research fits within the NIH roadmap.

The first step in the application process is the **letter of intent**. This one page letter should describe the planning, pilot, or proof of concept project, its relevance to health practice transfer and/or health policy, the nature of the collaboration, and how it will result in a fundable proposal. Application procedures and materials, including application forms similar to the US DHHS PHS398, will be distributed to potential applicants selected from the letter of intent screening process.

To guide preparation for the application and letter of intent, please be aware of the following criteria for the application:

For a pilot or proof of concept study, the following must be addressed:

- Research plan
 - Specific aims
 - Background and significance
 - Research design/methods/data analysis
 - Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding and how it will assist the PI's ability to receive external funding
 - Specific procedures for ongoing program evaluation and feedback.

For a planning grant, the following are expected:

- Specific aims
- Background and significance
- A statement of how the proposed project will contribute significantly to closing the gap between research and practice
- Detail of basic project goals and objectives, and how they will be met
- Development of plan, including organizational, governance and/ financial components
- Assessment of the feasibility of attaining funding for the proposed project
- Specific procedures for ongoing program evaluation and feedback.

Funding criteria: Funding priority will be based on:

- Relevance to translational and health policy research
- Scientific merit of the research plan
- Projects that are interdisciplinary in nature
- Strong evidence of a working relationship in the research–provider/policymaker partnership
- Competitiveness of the project for future extramural funding
- Strength of the plan to develop a fundable proposal within the award period
- Preference will be given to investigators who are new to translational or health policy research

Funding: A total of \$100,000 is available to fund up to three grants; individual requests should not exceed \$50,000, recognizing that in general, planning grants do not require as much funding as pilot/proof of concept studies. Allowable costs include those related to developing a full grant proposal for extramural funding, such as salary support for investigators and co-investigators, consultation with experts, and pilot data collection and analysis related to the proposal. Use of planning grant funds to purchase grant support services (such as project management or data analysis expertise) through the TRIPP Center is encouraged. Indirect costs are not allowed. The project must be completed within one year of the award date.

Application process: Letters of intent from interested researchers are due **April 30, 2008**. Please send a one page letter describing the planning, pilot, or proof of concept project, its relevance to health practice transfer and/or health policy, the nature of the collaboration, and how it will result in a fundable proposal, together with CV, via email to Dr. Jane Ungemack, Director, Planning and Pilot Study Grants Program, at ungemack@nso2.uchc.edu. Based on review of the letters, researchers will be invited to submit a full application by **July 1, 2008**. Awards will be announced **August 31, 2008**. IRB approval must be obtained prior to study initiation. Questions related to the program should be directed to Dr. Jane Ungemack at ungemack@nso2.uchc.edu.