

Frequently Asked Questions

AHEAD Award Application

I. General Information

1. What is the goal of the UW ICTR AHEAD Pilot Grant Program?

The goal of the AHEAD Pilot Grant Program is to support investigator-initiated translational research focused on health equity. It aims to build a community of scholars dedicated to enhancing health equity and diversity research, with a focus on eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the AHEAD Pilot Grant?

Postdoctoral scholars engaged in health equity research are eligible to apply. This includes scholars from various training programs within UW, such as T32 Health Disparities Research Scholars and the Family Medicine Primary Care Research Fellowship. Other postdoctoral scholars focused on health equity research with an engaged mentor from other departments across campus may also be eligible. All applications must include an experienced co-investigator/collaborator to connect the research team to relevant stakeholders. Only one PI per proposal is allowed.

3. Will the applicant be listed as the Project PI?

Yes, the postdoctoral scholar will be considered the PI on the project and is responsible for overseeing the research. However, due to UW-Madison fiscal rules, the research mentor will be listed as PI for fiscal purposes.

4. Does my research mentor need to hold a position in the same department as me?

No, however considering the research mentor's time spent collaborating with you on your project is not funded by the award, typically the research mentor is from the same department as the awardee. The mentor does have to hold a faculty appointment at UW-Madison.

5. Can I submit a new application if I applied in a previous round but was not funded?

Yes, applicants who submitted a previous ICTR AHEAD Pilot Award Application but were not funded are encouraged to apply, but they must submit a new application.

II. Award Details

6. What does the AHEAD Pilot Award provide to awardees?

Awardees will receive a maximum of \$10,000 for 12 months of direct support. Additionally, they will have access to resources aimed at advancing the success of their research teams, including participation in two mandatory training sessions: Collaboration Planning Workshop and Intellectual Property Workshop.

III. Application Timeline & Components

7. What are the key dates and deadlines for the AHEAD Pilot Grant Program?

- RFA Workshop (mandatory): Before October 20, 2023
- Letter of Intent Due (mandatory): October 20, 2023 (by 5 pm CST)
- Full Proposal Due: December 4, 2023 (by 5 pm CST)
- Review Period: December 2023-February 2024
- Awards Announced: February 2024
- Earliest Project Start Date: March 1, 2024

8. What are the components of the application process?

The application involves three components: viewing the mandatory RFA workshop recording, submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI), and submitting a full application.

9. What should be included in the Letter of Intent (LOI) and how do I submit it?

The LOI should include information about the Contact PI, Proposal Title, Research Mentor/Experienced Co-I, Proposed Research, Collaborating Community Partners/Stakeholders, and Other Funding. Refer to the AHEAD RFA for detailed instructions. Send your completed LOI to: filut@wisc.edu.

10. What should be included in the Full Application?

The Full Application should include the following sections: Applicant Information, Abstract and Key Personnel, Biosketches, Budget, Narrative, Timeline, Literature Citations, Letter of Commitment, and Letter of Partnership. Refer to the AHEAD RFA for detailed instructions for each section.

11. How do I submit my Full Application?

Those who send a responsive LOI will be provided a link to submit their full application through REDCap.

12. Do I have to obtain IRB approval before I submit my application?

No, however IRB approval will be needed before funds are dispersed. Preliminary planning for IRB submission is highly encouraged.

13. What is the expected timeline for project completion?

Projects must be completed within 12 months of the start date and no later than March 31, 2025.

14. Are no-cost extensions allowed?

No, no-cost extensions will not be allowed.

IV. Application Review

15. How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on three criteria: scientific merit, programmatic relevance and impact on career trajectory, and specific addressing of a recognized health disparity or impact on a specific population group experiencing inequity.

16. What happens if my proposed work does not have a direct health equity connection?

Proposals without a direct health equity or health disparity connection will not be funded.

V. Additional Information

17. I'm having trouble identifying/connecting with community partners, where can I go for help?

Appendix A of the RFA lists ICTR-affiliated community engaged research programs. Contact information for each of the programs is listed.

18. Will this award be offered in future rounds?

It is our intention to continue to grant ICTR Pilot Awards into the future. However, our ability to grant these awards is dependent on continuance of external funding.

19. Where can I find further information and resources for the AHEAD Pilot Grant Program?

For further information and resources, you can refer to the official ICTR Funding Opportunities page or contact Amy Filut at filut@wisc.edu.