

MICHR Pilot Grant Program Seed Grants

Overview

The MICHR Pilot Grant Program (PGP) provides funding to faculty and community partners engaged in clinical and translational research. The goal of the PGP is to promote the development of novel solutions that will ultimately improve patient and community health outcomes.

MICHR's PGP goals:

- Impact clinical outcomes and community health;
- Drive translation of scientific concepts from the benches of basic scientists to clinical investigators and the community;
- Stimulate research projects that address community-identified health priorities;
- Establish new research programs and/or collaborations;
- Augment the number of clinical/translational research investigators;
- Increase extramural funding and publications.

MICHR offers two seed grant mechanisms that each award up to \$5,000 in funding for a one-year period:

- **Traditional Seed:** Supports any aspect of promising and innovative research; funds can be used for a new stand-alone project or to enhance an existing research project.
- **Community-University Partnership Seed (CUPS):** Supports the formation, maintenance and sustainability of research partnerships that address community-defined health priorities. Partnerships in the City of Detroit should apply through the [Urban Research Center's Small Planning Grant Program](#).

Eligibility

- **Traditional Seed:** All faculty (12-month and 9-month appointments) with lecturer or instructor appointments or higher from all schools/departments at the University of Michigan (U-M) are eligible to apply as Principle Investigator (PI).
- **CUPS:** Requires an academic partner who is faculty in a U-M school/department and a community partner representing a non-academic community organization; either partner can serve as PI, Co-PI, or Co-Investigator.

Application Requirements

- **Traditional Seed:** Please see **Page 2** for application guidelines.
- **CUPS:** Please see **Page 3** for application guidelines.

Use of funds

The following items are unallowable: faculty salary support, equipment, computers, cost overruns, retroactive funding, publications, grant preparation costs, GSRA costs, travel unrelated to the conduct of research (e.g. conferences), renovations, or office supplies. This list may not be all inclusive, and applicants are encouraged to discuss allowable expenses with PGP staff if there are questions.

Submission and Timeline

Applicants will use the U-M Medical School's [Competition Space](#), and the forms provided on this site, to submit their applications. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all available funding has been distributed.

Awardee Responsibilities

The duration of the award is one year, by which time all funds must be spent. Awardees are required to provide a progress report toward the end of the award period.

For more information, please contact: Lisa Ahrens at MICHR-PilotGrants@umich.edu or 734-998-7308. For assistance developing your project, we recommend meeting with MICHR's [Research Development Core](#) and/or [Community Engagement Program](#).

Traditional Seed Application Guidelines

Application Components

1. **Face Page:** Include an abstract in the space provided and indicate the application type.
2. **Research Plan:** A maximum **TWO**-page, single-spaced document (Arial 11, minimum of 0.5 inch margins) describing the project concisely and completely. Use the following overall format and note the suggested page limits.
 - **Background and Significance** (0.5 pages): Explain 1) importance of the problem, 2) state of existing knowledge, 3) rationale for the proposed research, 4) gaps the project is intended to fill and 5) potential contributions of the proposed research to the scientific field(s) and public health.
 - **Innovation and Impact** (0.25 pages): Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe how the results will impact patients and/or community in the future.
 - **Approach** (1.25 pages): Include 1) design, subjects, data collection and data analysis, 2) expected results, 3) project timeline, and 4) plans for recruiting human subjects, if applicable.
3. **References:** Not included in the page limit.
4. **Regulatory Approval:** Appropriate IRB and/or IACUC approval should be included with the application. Funds will not be released until approval has been secured. If funding is awarded, you will be required to provide MICHR with additional documentation for NCATS review. More information on this requirement can be found [here](#).
5. **Biographical Sketch:** Include a NIH biosketch for all key personnel; a template can be found [here](#).
6. **Budget and Justification:** Investigators can request any amount up to \$5,000; all items must be fully justified. Please follow all rules regarding unallowable costs found on **Page 1**.
7. **Signature Page:** Departmental approval must be obtained prior to submission even if faculty effort and cost share are not requested as part of the budget.
8. **Letters of Support:** Collaborators other than Co-PIs and Co-Is, with significant roles on the project, should provide a letter of support outlining their participation.
9. **Current/Pending Support:** Include current and pending support for all key personnel. Please follow the [NIH format](#).

Items 2-8 must be combined into one PDF.

Community-University Partnership Seed Application Guidelines

Application Components

1. **Face Page:** Include an abstract in the space provided and indicate the application type.
2. **Research Plan:** A maximum **THREE**-page, single-spaced document (Arial 11, minimum of 0.5 inch margins) describing the project concisely and completely. Use the following overall format and note the suggested page limits.
 - **Background, Significance and Impact** (up to 0.75 pages): Describe the specific health problem that the partnership will address and its relevance to the communities involved. Describe how activities will lead to sustained research collaborations and/or funding opportunities and plans for sustaining partnership efforts.
 - **Partners and Previous Related Work** (up to 0.75 pages): Describe any previous experience that the partners have working together, conducting community-engaged research, and the expertise that the different partners will bring to the research partnership.
 - **Approach** (up to 1.5 pages): Include 1) framework and/or approach to community-engaged research that the partnership will utilize, 2) purpose and measureable desired outcomes of the partnership, 3) specific activities that the partners will utilize to meet the desired outcomes and 4) project timeline.
3. **References:** Not included in the page limit.
4. **Regulatory Approval:** Appropriate IRB and/or IACUC approval should be included with the application. Funds will not be released until approval has been secured. If funding is awarded, you will be required to provide MICHR with additional documentation for NCATS review. More information on this requirement can be found [here](#).
5. **Biographical Sketch (Optional):** Include a NIH biosketch for all key personnel; a template can be found [here](#). For community partners, a resume or CV is appropriate.
6. **Budget and Justification:** Investigators can request any amount up to \$5,000; all items must be fully justified. Please follow all rules regarding unallowable costs found on **Page 1**.
7. **Signature Page (Optional):** Departmental approval should be obtained prior to submission even if faculty effort and cost share are not requested as part of the budget.
8. **Letters of Support (Optional):** Collaborators other than Co-PIs and Co-Is, with significant roles on the project, should provide a letter of support outlining their participation.
9. **Current/Pending Support:** Include current and pending support for all key personnel. Please follow the [NIH format](#).

Items 2-8 must be combined into one PDF.

Note: Applicants may propose activities at any phase in the process of developing, maintaining, and sustaining a research partnership. For more information and examples of fundable activities, applicants are encouraged to reference this [supplemental guide](#).