**Letter of Intent (LOI) Announcement**

 **to apply for the**

 **Research Scholars Program**

**LOI is Required**

**Due Date: October 4th, 2021**

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network is pleased to announce that funding through an NIH/NIGMS grant is available to support four faculty who are in the early stages of their career.

We are requesting a Letter of Intent (maximum of two pages), to include: 1) project title, 2) principal investigator and mentor(s), 3) participating institution(s), 4) study aims, 5) hypothesis, 6) methods (brief overview of design, sample, measures, statistical analysis plan), and 7) a statement addressing how the project advances clinical and translational research. Also, include a specific paragraph listing your training needs to support your research program.

Up to 10 applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Those invited will be notified the week of October 25th, 2021. The RFA and requirements for invitees are attached to this email. Please email your LOI, your NIH biosketch, and you primary mentors biosketch as a single PDF document to the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Office at gpctr@unmc.edu.

Solicited applications will be due: November 22nd, 2021

The goal of this program is to develop successful clinical translational research (CTR) investigators by providing scholars with the protected time and seed grant funding to develop competitive CTR R01, K, or equivalent funding within 3-4 years. Scholars accepted into the program will receive salary support of up to 50% FTE (25% supported by NIGMS and 25% supported by the applicant’s institution, including fringe benefits consistent with the applicant’s institution) as well as up to $25,000 annually to support preliminary research efforts for up to four years.

All faculty in the Great Plains IDeA-CTR network are welcome to participate. This includes: Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH), Children’s Hospital and Medical Center (CHMC), Creighton University (CU), Omaha VA Medical Center (O-VAMC), University of Kearney (UNK), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) and University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Priority will be given to research addressing the following areas**:** 1) mental and behavioral health including mental health, substance abuse (e.g., opioids and alcohol), 2) obesity across the lifespan, 3) aging and age-related cognitive impairment, 4) injury prevention, 5) telehealth and innovative technology to improve health access to rural and underserved populations, 6) connecting clinical care and community services (e.g., schools, food banks, YMCA’s), 7) addressing health disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and geography, 8) addressing health disparities based on food insecurity, economic instability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, social and community context. In addition, consider the impact your project will have on the community.

stions, plea For questions and additional information, please contact the Great Plains IDeA-CTR

 Office at gpctr@unmc.edu or 402-552-2260. For more details see the full RFA that will be provided to 10 invited applicants ([click here](https://gpctr.unmc.edu/2021/09/10/research-scholar-program-loi-announcement/)).