

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**Great Plains IDeA-CTR Research Incubator**

**Application Deadline: November 22nd, 2021 | 5:00 PM**

[**https://gpctr.unmc.edu/2021/09/07/2021-research-incubator-rfa/**](https://gpctr.unmc.edu/2021/09/07/2021-research-incubator-rfa/)

The Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core of the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network is pleased to announce an opportunity for community-engaged researchers and community partners to participate in a Community-Engaged Clinical and Translational Research Incubator.

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network (GP IDeA-CTR) is a collaboration of 8 eligible institutions which include: Boys Town National Research Hospital, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, Creighton University, Omaha Veterans Administration Medical Center, University of Nebraska Kearney, University of Nebraska Lincoln, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and University of Nebraska Omaha.

The goal of the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Research Incubator is to assist community-engaged scientists and their partners in the generation of competitive community-engaged research NIH grant proposals. Interdisciplinary support from the Professional Development Core (PDC), Biostatistics, Epidemiology, & Research Design (BERD), and Biomedical Informatics, Bioinformatics, & Cyberinfrastructure Enhancement (BIBCE) Cores, will provide consultation and feedback over a 3-9 month period, to improve the scientific rigor of community-engaged CTR, while still focusing on community issues such as social justice, social determinants of health, and the advancement of health equity.

The incubator consists of 8 steps designed to move a project from research idea generation through grant proposal submission. The 8 steps are:

1. Establish the funding mechanism/RFA/announcement that will be pursued
2. Research studio focusing on critiquing the composition of the research team, community and scientific significance, innovation in partnership structure, ideas, methodology, and the use of practical mixed-method research design
3. Development of an action plan
4. Execution of the action plan
5. Writing of the grant proposal and a mock study section
6. Revision and submission of the application
7. For applications that do not receive a fundable score, action planning will be revisited based on the summary statement
8. Closing the loop with the community partners/stakeholders on outcomes of the scientific review, research findings, and future directions

**Definitions to consider:** To effectively support community-engaged research, it is important to provide the working definitions that underlie and provide scope to our work. There are several different ways to define concepts like “community” or “community engagement,” and how these concepts are defined can greatly affect the actions and relationships for those involved in research.

Below are the definitions that the Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core use to describe community, community engagement, and community-engaged research. Using these definitions enables us to have a shared understanding which, we believe, will then lead to better relationships and more impactful research.

Community:Persons or entities affiliated by geographical proximity, special interests, or similar situations which can be further defined using the following perspectives:

* **Systems:** specialized functions, activities, or interests operating in specific boundaries to meet community needs
* **Social:** individual, community organizations, and leaders
* **Virtual:** communicating via online mechanisms
* **Individual:** how a person thinks about himself/herself and how others see and think about that person

Community engagement (CE):The collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger community for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

Community Engaged Research (CEnR): The process of working collaboratively with groups of people affiliated by geographical proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to the investigation and resolution of issues affecting their well-being. It is a powerful vehicle for bringing about environmental and behavioral changes that will improve the health of the community and its members. It often involves partnerships and coalitions that help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices.

**Applicable Research:** Proposed projects must be translational research and considered T2 to T4 in nature. The GP IDeA-CTR does not fund basic research projects, defined by the NIH as a, “systemic study directed towards greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind.” While there are many definitions of translational research, the GP IDeA-CTR uses the following definitions:

*T1* *Translation to humans*: Seeks to move fundamental discovery into health application.

*T2 Translation to patients*: Develops health applications with implications for evidence-based practice.

*T3 Translation to practice*: Investigates the movement of evidence-based guidelines to health practices.

*T4 Translation to communities*: investigates the impact of evidence-practice and policies to population health impact/investigators providing communities with the optimal intervention.

For additional questions regarding whether your research satisfies the definition, please contact your local institutional program coordinator (see “Eligible Institutions and Contacts’ below). Alternatively, if you have questions about whether your research applies, you may also contact Dr. Paul Estabrooks at paul.estabrooks@unmc.edu, Dr. Dave Palm at david.palm@unmc.edu, or Emily Frankel at emily.frankel@unmc.edu.

**Research Priorities:** Priorities include a combination of scientific and regional needs developed by the GP IDeA-CTR Scientific Team and Community Advisory Board. Priority areas are:

* Behavioral health, including mental health, substance use (e.g., opioids and alcohol), and violence as a public health issue
* Obesity across the lifespan
* Aging and age-related cognitive impairment
* Injury prevention
* Telehealth and innovative technology to improve health access to rural and underserved populations
* Connecting clinical care and community services (e.g., schools, food banks, YMCA’s)
* Addressing health disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and geography
* 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

Highest priority will be given to the strongest science and project that focus on priority areas which are most likely to lead to successful extramural funding. Projects that make an impact on medically disadvantaged, underrepresented minority, and/or geographically or clinically isolated populations are of high interest. In addition, projects that can introduce or evaluate new tools or technologies useful in these populations are strongly encouraged.

**Eligibility:**

* At least one of the Principal Investigators must be current full-time faculty at a participating institution. Co-PI(s) from a community partner or community organization is also required.
* Eligible to apply for NIH research grants.
* Has a focus on relevant clinical-translational or community-translational research.
* **Note:** You are not eligible if you have funding from any other IDeA-CTR program that will overlap at the time of this award.

**Exclusions:**

* Projects that do not involve community engagement.
* Projects designed to demonstrate that health disparities exist rather than address or reduce health disparities.
* Research conducted outside the Great Plains region.

**Eligible Institutions and Contacts:**

* Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) – Chris Stecker (chris.stecker@boystown.org)
* Children’s Hospital and Medical Center (CHMC) –Ann Anderson-Berry (aberry@childrensomaha.org)
* Creighton University (CU) – Peter Steyger (petersteyger@creighton.edu)
* Omaha Veterans Administration Medical Center (O-VAMC)–Frederick Hamel ([Frederick.Hamel@va.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cheather.braddock%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CCKAXMTKD%5CFrederick.Hamel%40va.gov))
* University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) – Kimberly Carlson (carlsonka1@unk.edu)
* University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) – David Hansen (dhansen1@unl.edu)
* University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) – Sarah Holstein (sarah.holstein@unmc.edu)
* University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) – Sara Myers (samyers@unomaha.edu)

**Application Process and Requirements (including key dates):**

* Call for applications: September 7th, 2021
* Application deadline: November 22nd, 2021
* Scientific Review: November/December 2021
* Selection Announcement: December 20th, 2021
* Research Incubator Start: January 3rd, 2022

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted twice per year, in October and April. To apply, submit a letter of intent.

**Letter of Intent Criteria:**

* Evidence of community engagement
* Evidence that the research question addresses a GP IDeA-CTR priority health area
* A description of how the project can move a scientific idea from one CTR stage to the next
* Potential to benefit the community
* Potential for federal funding
* Partnership’s commitment to participate in a 3- or 9-month incubator that culminates with a grant submission

Please refer to the [Research Incubator Application Requirements](https://gpctr.unmc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Research-Incubator-Application-Requirements.pdf) document for more information.

**Application Submission:**

Applications should be saved in a PDF format and submitted via REDCap, using the link: [**https://redcap.link/incubator**](https://redcap.link/incubator)**.** The application deadline is November 22nd, 2021 at 5:00 PM. If you have difficulty with your submission, contact Emily Frankel at emily.frankel@unmc.edu or 402-836-9283.

**Review Process and Scoring:**

The CEO Core and Community Advisory Board (CAB) will review applications against the criteria outlined above under “Letter of Intent Criteria” and select the top 1-2 applicants per cycle. Proposals that are submitted but not selected for participation in the incubator will have access to engage the Research Incubator resources to develop a strong resubmission.

**Post-selection Requirements:**

All members of the research team, including community partners, must participate and remain engaged across all steps of the Incubator process.

**Questions:**

For questions, contact Emily Frankel, emily.frankel@unmc.edu or 402-836-9283 or the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Office at gpctr@unmc.edu or 402-552-2260.