Pilot Project RFA Description

Racial and ethnic health disparities are pervasive and complex in origin. To that end, the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (MACHE) of the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (WFBMC) and the Reynolda Campus of Wake Forest University are collaborating to provide funds to support two pilot research projects focused on health disparities. Examples would include studies that define and or address differences in health outcomes or indicators of access or quality of health care across populations according to race/ethnicity, gender, geographic residence, sexual orientation, age, and/or disability status. This award is open to WFBMC and eligible WFU Reynolda Campus faculty who are working collaboratively as co-Principal Investigators. WFU Reynolda Campus faculty should consult the “Who can be a PI?” policy: http://research.wfu.edu/policies/principal-investigator/ for eligibility information.

Applicants may request up to $25,000 to complete a one-year project. Funds may be used to support project management staff, equipment and supplies, travel, and other resources to ensure successful data collection. Successful submissions must have within their grant application a delineation of a clear path to development of an extramural grant submission using data from the pilot project.

Award Expectations:

The following are expectations of the awardee either during the funding period or within one year after the end of the project period:

- Submission of a brief mid-year progress report and a full year project report within 30 days of the end of the one year period;
- Presentation of project findings at a meeting of the MACHE within 60 days of the end of the project period;
- Submission of abstracts for scientific presentations at regional or national meetings, and submission of manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals within one year after the end of the project period;
- Development and submission of a grant application for external funding within one year after the end of the project period.

Guidelines:

- The project must be led by co-PI’s on each campus.
- Only one proposal will be accepted per faculty member as co-PI.
- The appropriateness of the budget will be determined based on the likelihood that the proposed investment will generate research data for publications and grant applications.
- Submissions that do not have a viable plan for subsequent external research funding will not be considered.
- Proposals which do not adhere to the required format (including page limitations) will be returned without review.
- A final report on all projects is due two months following completion of the project.
Pilot grant funds will be available for a **project start date of July 1st, 2016.**

**Application Process and Timeline:**
Applications are due by **5:00PM on April 1st, 2016** to Winona Gilbert in the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (wgilbert@wakehealth.edu). Details of the application are below:

- **Format Specifications**
  - Font size no smaller than 11 point. Margins at least 0.5 inches (sides, top & bottom). Single spaced lines on consecutively numbered pages.

- **Face Page**
  - The face page including Co-PIs and Co-I contact information.

- **Abstract**
  - No more than 300 words.

- **Scientific Proposal (Maximum 6 pages)**
  - Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Experimental Design and Methods.

- **Anticipated Outcomes (Maximum 1 page)**
  - Including predicted results and targeted external grant applications (with likely amounts to be sought)

- **References (no page limit)**

- **Budget and justification (template plus 1 page)**
  - Complete the budget template form provided and attach a brief budget justification for the funds requested for this RFA. Please indicate in the justification availability of other resources that may be leveraged by the funding of the proposed research plan. The proposed research should be collaborative and carried out on more than one campus and research occurring on separate campuses should be detailed in the budget template and justification.

- **NIH-style biographical sketch for Co-PIs and all Co-Is.** In the personal statement include a description of your interest and experience in research in the topic area.

- **List of WFBMC or WFU collaborators who may have a Conflict of Interest reviewing your proposal.**

- **All documents should be included and submitted in a single PDF document.**

**Review Criteria:**
Proposals will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Only brief review comments will be provided to all PIs. Proposals will be ranked for overall impact by the review committee and based on the NIH review process working on a scale of 1 (exceptional) to 9 (poor). The primary review criteria are as follows:

- The quality of the science and the proposed research
- Collaborative fit with institutional research priorities
- Strength of the collaborative investigative team
- Relevance of the work to health disparities
- Research feasibility (approach) and innovation
- The likelihood that this investment will lead to a return in the form of external funding

Please contact **Ronny Bell (rbell@wakehealth.edu)** or **Bruce King (kingsb@wfu.edu)** for any questions related to the methods and suitability of a project for this program. Please contact Winona Gilbert (wgilbert@wakehealth.edu) for questions regarding the submission process.