

# Call for Applications: 2025 Prisma Health Education & Research Institute Seed Grant Program

*Deadline for Applications: September 6, 2024, at 5:00pm (EST)*

**The Prisma Health Education and Research Institute in collaboration with its academic partners, Clemson University, Furman University, and the University of South Carolina, announces a Call for Seed Grant applications supporting research that improves health.**

**Overview** | The Seed Grant initiative facilitates collaborative pilot research and scholarly activities supporting Prisma Health's research goals and priorities and those of its academic partners (Clemson University, Furman University and University of South Carolina). Seed Grant recipients are required to disseminate their work locally, regionally, and/or nationally. Funded investigators are strongly encouraged to subsequently submit an extramural grant application informed by seed grant study findings.

**The Seed Grants are targeted toward Prisma Health's strategic priorities within the following categories:**

- **Health System Science:** *Quality and safety; process improvement; patient and provider experience; human factors research; high value care projects.*
- **Health Care Delivery Innovations:** *Implementation of proven and effective diagnostic and management tools including digital health innovations across health care settings.*
- **Community Health, Population Health, and Health Disparities/Equity:** *Research informing community-based and rural health models of health promotion and care delivery.*
- **Educating and Supporting the Health Care Workforce:** *Interprofessional training; Well-being, burnout, and performance of the workforce.*
- **Basic Science and Translational Research:** *Basic scientific inquiry with potential to advance diagnosis and treatment and improve health.*

**Funding** | Applicants may request a funding amount up to \$20,000. Applicants may cite matching funds from their respective units or from other sources, but cost-share is not required.

**Eligibility** | All applications must include an investigative partnership between one or more academic partner (Prisma Health, Clemson University, Furman University, and University of South Carolina) and a clinical collaborator from Prisma Health (Upstate and/or Midlands). Investigators are encouraged to include trainees on their research teams. Examples of successful collaborative projects and previously funded Seed Grants addressing previous Prisma Health priorities can be reviewed at [here](#).

An individual listed as a Principal Investigator (PI) is eligible to apply for only one project (as the PI) per funding cycle and must (1) have adhered to established timelines for their projects that were previously funded through this Program and (2) submit a proposal that is conceptually

distinct from their previously funded proposal(s). A project that proposes to increase the sample size for a previously funded project would not meet this eligibility criterion.

**Applicant Requirements** | Principal Investigators accepting a Seed Grant agree to the following:

- Attend awardee kick off meeting.
- Attend onboarding drop-in meetings especially if project is not progressing adequately to meet the 90-day deadline of the drafting of a final protocol and Institutional Review Board (IRB)/Data Support Core (DSC) approvals.
- Secure IRB approval or exemption AND DSC approval to include necessary data sharing agreements as needed within 90 days of project start.
- Spend award dollars only on the proposed research-related activities specified in the budget.
- Complete validation form prior to 90 days to verify final protocol preparation and IRB/DSC approvals, if applicable.
- Complete a progress report at 9 months.
- Complete final report within 30 days of project end date.
- Return any unspent funds in excess of \$500 to Prisma Health.
- Disseminate findings, with at least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
- Apply to present a poster at the Prisma Health Education and Research Institute Showcase.
- Acknowledge funding support from the Prisma Health Education and Research Institute in all future presentations and publications related to project.

Failure to meet these expectations will disqualify researchers from future funding from the Seed Grant Program and may result in recall of funds.

**Period of Support** | The committee will award support for 18 months from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. No-cost extensions will NOT be allowed: all projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.

**Important Dates** | Applications are due on September 6, 2024, by 5:00 pm (EST). Items received after the deadline will not be accepted. Early submission is strongly encouraged. Refer to the 2025 Seed Grant Timeline for additional important dates.

**Allowable Expenditures** | Allowable expenditures include participant incentives, equipment, project supplies, pilot data collection, research-related travel (up to 10% of total budget), publication fees, contract, and user fees. Travel funding may be used to facilitate meetings between primary academic partner collaborators. Applicants must fully justify requests for electronic equipment and travel to conferences and presentations. This award does not support indirect costs or full-time faculty salary; however, applicants may use funds for consultants, research staff, post-doctoral fellow, or other research assistant support from primary academic partner institutions (e.g., undergraduate students and graduate students). The proposed budget should not include items departments typically support for active researchers, travel unrelated to project execution, or a request to bridge a funding gap between grants.

**Selection Process** | A Selection Committee with the oversight of the Executive Committee will competitively review the submitted proposals, rank them in order of priority of merit, and fund those deemed most worthy of support.

The Selection Committee will use a NIH 9-point scoring system and rate based on following criteria:

- **Significance:** Will the project advance the field and fit into the Prisma Health priorities?
- **Innovation:** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or inventions?
- **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
- **Investigators:** Does the investigative team have the requisite background and training to carry out the goals of the project?
- **Overall Impact:** Overall impression of the impact of the proposed project.

In addition, the Committee will provide a feasibility score. This will evaluate the capacity of the research team (including relationships and access) to acquire necessary access or data for successful completion of the project at Prisma Health and whether the study be conducted in a standard clinical setting where applicable (e.g., without disrupting patient care or compromising confidentiality or patient safety.)

**Application, Formatting, and Submission Instructions** | The submission deadline for applications is September 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm (EST).

Principal Investigators should notify their institution's sponsored programs/grants office regarding their intent to submit an application.

**The following proposal documents are required to be submitted via an online [application](#) as a combined PDF in this order:**

- **Proposal**
  - **Format** | Calibri 11-point font, single-spaced, with ½ inch margins, no headers/footers
  - **Length** | No more than three (3) pages
  - **Content** | Should include at minimum the Specific Aims (hypotheses and specific aims being tested in the research); Background and Significance (status of existing scientific knowledge on the topic, importance of the problem and barriers to progress, potential impact of the project, innovation/novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions), the Approach (overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be use to accomplish each Specific Aim of the project), and References
- **Biosketches**
  - Use current NIH format (see [NOT-OD-21-073](#) and current NIH [template](#))
  - 5-page limit for each biosketch
  - Required for the Principal Investigator and primary partner(s): the lead investigators from Prisma Health and the academic partner institution(s).
  - Biosketches are not required for all study team members.
- **Budget**
  - Complete budget/budget justification utilizing the template that may be accessed on the Program [webpage](#).
- **Letters of Support**
  - Accepted only if they reference specific additional financial support for the project. General letters of support should not be included with the application.

**Questions** | For questions regarding the Prisma Health Education and Research Institute Seed Grant, please email [SeedGrants@PrismaHealth.org](mailto:SeedGrants@PrismaHealth.org).