

Call for Letters of Intent and Applications: 2023 Health Sciences Center at Prisma Health Research Seed Grant Program

Deadline for Letters of Intent: October 17, 2022 at 5:00pm (EST)

The Health Sciences Center at Prisma Health announces a Call for Research Seed Grant applications supporting research that improves health.

Overview | The Research Seed Grant initiative facilitates collaborative pilot research and scholarly activities supporting Prisma Health's research goals and priorities and those of its university partners (Clemson University, Furman University and University of South Carolina). Research Seed Grant recipients are required to disseminate their work locally, regionally, and/or nationally. Funded investigators are expected to subsequently submit an extramural grant application informed by seed grant study findings. Funding is provided for the program by Prisma Health Sciences Center Research Division, Clemson University, University of South Carolina, Furman University, and the Prisma Health Addiction Medicine Center.

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

- Quality & Safety / Process Improvement – *Human Factors research; Quality improvement/ patient safety/root cause analysis and risk mitigation processes; high value care projects*
- Health Care Delivery Innovations – *Implementation of proven and effective diagnostic and management tools across health care settings*
- Community Health- *Research informing community-based and rural health models of health promotion*
- Health Disparities - *Including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities*
- Addiction and Substance Use Disorders
- Basic Science and Translational Research – *Basic scientific inquiry with potential to advance diagnosis and treatment and improve health*

Funding | Seed Grants are supported through funding from Prisma Health and academic partners (up to 20 will be awarded). 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 letters of intent and 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 Prisma Health priorities can be reviewed at [\(link\)](#).

Health Sciences Center at Prisma Health



Previous awardees of the research Seed Grant program are eligible to apply for funding if: (1) the applicant satisfactorily completed the previously funded work; and (2) the current proposal is conceptually distinct from their previously funded proposal. A project that proposes to increase the sample size for a previously funded project would not meet this eligibility criterion.

Applicant Agreement | Principal Investigators accepting Research Seed Grant agree to the following:

- Secure Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or exemption) prior to receipt of any award dollars, or the initiation of project-related work.
- Spend award dollars only on the proposed research-related activities specified in the budget.
- Complete a status report form at 6 months and then submit a final report within 30 days of project end date.
- Disseminate findings, with at least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
- Apply to present a poster at the Prisma Health Research Showcase.
- Submit an extramural grant application informed by seed grant study findings as soon as feasible after completing the project (ideally within 6 months of the project end date).

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

Period of Support | The committee will award support for a maximum of 12 months from April 1, 2023- March 31, 2024.

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 | The Seed Grant applications undergo a two-tiered evaluation process. The first phase will be by the Letter of Intent (LOI) submission. LOI components include an online form and quad chart outlining the project (see next section for detail). Applicants submitting LOIs deemed responsive to the funding announcement will be invited to submit a full application which the committee will evaluate and score. Only accepted LOIs will be invited to complete a full application. Only complete applications- comprised of both previously approved LOI and application compliant with submission direction will be considered for funding.

Letters of Intent Evaluation | The Committee will review and assess LOIs according to the thoroughness of the completed quad chart. This includes assessing the project's alignment with Prisma Health priorities, authenticity and strength of the Co-Investigators collaboration, and the project feasibility and requisite resource availability.

Scoring Criteria for Full Applications: Projects will be evaluated in the following categories:

- *Significance:* Does the project address a knowledge or implementation gap within the field and align with Prisma Health’s mission to improve health through evidence?
- *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 interventions?
- *Approach and Feasibility:* 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, training, and relationship and access to advance the project goals? Does the team have depth of collaborative experience or potential to advance the project?
- *Overall impact:* The likelihood that the project will have a sustained powerful influence on the research field involved?

Projects that involve secondary data analysis from Prisma Health data will require a data approval, agreement execution (e.g., DUA or DSA) and IRB submission. For data approval, investigators must meet with the Prisma Health Data Support Core. (Budgetary Note: some data extraction may require additional funding.)

Letter of Intent (LOI) | A responsive LOI includes the seed grant submission form. Each box should include all the information solicited. LOI must be submitted by October 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm (EST) via the [HSC Seed Grant Submission form](#).

LOI submissions will be notified by November 28, 2022 by 5:00 pm (EST) if invited to submit a full application.

Full Application, Formatting, and Submission Instructions | The submission deadline for invited full applications is January 13, 2023 at 5:00 pm (EST). Examples of projects awarded in 2022 can be found [here](#).

Principal Investigators should notify their institution’s sponsored programs/grants office regarding their intent to submit a full application.

Applicants will submit the full application via an online form and upload the additional components outlined below (PIs will be sent the online form to complete):

- Applications should include: Specific Aims, full methodology using single-spacing and 11-point Calibri font with 1-inch margins and no more than three (3) pages;
- Biographical Sketch of investigators;
- Completed Budget utilizing the budget template available on the HSC Seed Grant web site; and
- Letters of Support are accepted only if they reference specific additional financial support for the project. General letters of support should not be included with the application.

For questions regarding the Prisma Health Seed Grant, please email SeedGrants@PrismaHealth.org.