

Request for Applications

Global Health Research Awards

A Joint Initiative Sponsored by

**Indiana CTSI, IU Center for Global Health, and the University of Notre
Dame's Eck Institute for Global Health**

ELECTRONIC RECEIPT DATE

April 15, 2019

Round 2 – 2019

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP.

The WebCAMP user's guide is also available under the funding announcement here:

<https://www.indianactsi.org/projectdevelopment/funding/all-open-rfps/>

I. Purpose

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), in cooperation with the IU Center for Global Health and our partners at the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University, seeks to foster innovative global health research partnerships and projects to improve the health and wellbeing of Hoosiers and the resource-limited communities we serve around the world. Our work encourages multi-disciplinary collaboration to solve the world's most critical health challenges.

Challenge: Increasingly the health challenges we face in Indiana are global and require broader cooperation to solve. The Indiana CTSI has provided a platform for its partners to strengthen global health research partnerships around the world. These partnerships offer significant opportunities to develop high potential innovations to address health challenges faced by Hoosiers and our partners around the world. The identification, development, adaptation, and translation of health innovations produced through our international research collaborations provide opportunities to produce solutions that are cost effective, easily scaled, and have high potential to improve the health of the most vulnerable people in the world. There is high potential to leverage the lessons and innovations produced through the Indiana CTSI's global health research collaborations to address shared health challenges around the world. For example, developing low-cost point of care diagnostics with the potential to help caregivers more effectively treat substance dependency in Nigeria and Indiana. Adapting community health strategies developed in Kenya to find HIV infected patients, link them to treatment, and retain them in care to address Indiana's high infant mortality rates is another example.

Purpose: This RFA seeks to leverage the global health research partnerships of the Indiana CTSI partner institutions (IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) to research and demonstrate innovations with a high potential to address significant global health challenges. Competitive applications will focus on health challenges faced by people in resource-limited settings in Indiana and/or at our Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) partner sites around the world. Potential applicants working in all areas of science, environmental science, medicine, social science and other relevant fields not specifically listed, working in subject areas addressing critical challenges to human health in resource limited settings, are encouraged to apply.

II. Types of Projects

Projects funded by this RFA will seek to develop demonstration projects and/or pilot research projects to address critical global health challenges. Projects should seek to develop or adapt innovative solutions that will: (1) improve population health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations; (2) strengthen sustainable health care delivery systems; (3) address major disease burdens in LMIC countries as well as Indiana; (4) result in high impact solutions that provide reciprocal benefit to the communities Indiana CTSI institutions serve at home and abroad. Innovations selected must have at least one LMIC partner.

Proposals should include plans to sustain and expand after the end of support from this RFA. This should include a plan for scaling, funding, and integrating innovations into existing systems or models of care. Additional preference will be given to projects that are likely to produce written products and publications (e.g., journal manuscripts, conference abstracts and presentations, evaluation reports, etc.); and result in the creation of intellectual property (IP). All successful applications must provide data and other relevant information to demonstrate why the project is likely to be successful and advance the health outcomes as described above.

Example Projects:

Community Health Workers: Many LMICs are working to task shift certain aspects of healthcare delivery to community health workers. These interventions have helped expand community access to healthcare support, education, and improve health outcomes. Researchers at IU, for example, have adapted an approach used in Kenya to help lower infant mortality in Indiana.

Point of Care Diagnostic Tools: CTSI researchers have helped create very low cost diagnostic tools to detect counterfeit drugs in LMICs. This same technology might be used to aid first responders in rapidly identifying drugs taken by an overdose patient and providing treatment that is more effective.

Home Hospice Care via Telecommunication: Palliative care is essential in the treatment of cancer and other diseases yet many people in remote rural settings may lack adequate access to palliative care services. CTSI researchers are testing telecommunications strategies to provide remote home hospice care services in western Kenya. These same interventions might prove effective in providing care to patients in rural Indiana.

Microfinance for Health: Micro-lending groups in LMICs have provided caregivers opportunities to connect patients with care for chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension while providing a vehicle to address economic factors that impact health. These community-based strategies might be applied to similar health challenges in resource-limited settings in Indiana.

The above examples are only a few of the many opportunities to apply global health lessons to local health challenges. Applicants are not limited to these examples.

III. Eligibility

This funding opportunity is open to researchers at Indiana CTSI partner institutions (IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) and their LMIC partners. Eligible proposals must be collaborative and include at least one principal investigator from an Indiana CTSI partner institution. Principal investigators/project directors must have the requisite skills, knowledge, time, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. This opportunity is open to individuals with full-time faculty appointments, graduate level trainees, and post-graduate fellows.

Researchers who served as a principal investigator/project director of a CTSI funded global health pilot grant funded during the 2017-18 or 2018-19 funding cycles are not eligible to serve as a principal investigator/project director for this award.

IV. Funding Amounts

The Indiana CTSI will grant awards of up to \$50,000 for a period of up to 3 years.

University of Notre Dame Matching Funds: University of Notre Dame Eck Institute for Global Health will provide up to \$10,000 matching funds for researchers successful Notre Dame faculty and affiliated members of the Eck Institute for Global Health. Researchers who meet this criteria may submit a budget inclusive of this additional funding. For questions on eligibility, please contact Katherine Taylor (ktaylo12@nd.edu).

V. Application Technical Requirements

Eligible candidates should complete, sign and upload the application using the **Start a Submission** link: [CTSI Global Health Link](#).

Each application should include the following items:

1. **Face Page (Template included)**

2. **Project Summary/Abstract**

Provide a brief summary (300-400 words) describing the project focus, its significance, expected outcomes, international partner, and proposed plans for the expansion of future research if pilot funding is awarded.

3. **Project Description (No more than 6 pages, single-spaced, Arial 11-point font, and 1/2 inch margins)**

a. Focus and significance of project

Describe in detail the global health challenge the proposed research will address and explain the potential significance of the proposed research.

b. Specific aims

Summarize the specific aims and objectives of the proposed research project.

c. Project design and methods

Describe the project design and methods that will be used to achieve the stated project aims and objectives.

d. Collaborative partners

Provide a detailed description of all collaborating partners including details on the unique qualifications, resources, and abilities of each partner that will enable successful conduct of the proposed project. Describe how this work will support ongoing, collaborative international partnership. Partners may include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, (such as higher education or K-12), and applicants may involve more than one partner.

e. Innovation

Describe how the proposed research will challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

f. Dissemination & Translation plan

Describe how research outcomes will be disseminated.

g. Proposed plans for expanding, sustaining, and integrating the proposed innovation

Describe planned next steps for expanding, sustaining, and integrating the innovation demonstrated through this award after the expiration of this award. Include a detailed plan for pursuing expanding the innovation model, securing ongoing funding, and integrating the

intervention into existing health systems, producing written products and publications, and/or intellectual property that will be pursued.

4. Proposed project timeline and milestones

Describe the timeline for all major components of the project including descriptions of key milestones.

5. References/Works Cited

Describe the resources and references which will be key to the project and which research applicants have utilized for this application.

6. Detailed Budget & Budget Justification

All applications require a concise, convincing, and realistic explanation of the proposed budget, which includes all planned expenditures. Submitted budgets that request the maximum without adequate explanation for that level of support, if awarded, will be reduced to a justifiable funding level based on the proposed project. If there are other resources committed to the project, please indicate these funds in the total budget. Total project costs may exceed \$50,000 when other funding entities have committed to the project.

No indirect costs or finance and administration costs are allowed. However, overhead costs necessary for the administration of the award at a LMIC partner site may be budgeted as direct costs. Overhead costs should not exceed 8% of the total budget. Overhead costs are included in the total award amount not to exceed \$50,000. Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment or for meeting-related / hospitality expenditures (no exceptions); travel expenses are limited to those that are demonstrated to be necessary to achieve the aims of the proposed project.

Projects that provide matching funds from their home institutions, LMIC partners, or other sponsors will receive preference for funding.

Proposed project periods cannot exceed 36 months from the project start date. The required start date is June 30, 2019 (see Section IX for details). Up to one 12 month no-cost extension may be granted with proper documentation and notification provided to the Indiana CTSI (<https://www.indianactsi.org/researchers/funding/no-cost-extension/>).

7. Biographical sketch NIH-formatted bio sketch of the principal investigator and co-principal investigators (Limit 5 pages per bio sketch)

8. Letters of Support (Maximum of 3)

9. Internal Research Board (IRB) Approval (if available). Note that local IRB approval for all involved institutions must be obtained before award funds can be dispersed.

VI. Review Criteria

All eligible proposals received by the application deadline will be reviewed by a committee, including representative global health research leaders from the Global Health Research Programs of IU, Purdue

or Notre Dame. After review and approval, proposal revisions may be requested prior to implementation.

Proposals will be scored using the NIH scoring system defined below:

| Impact | Score | Descriptor | Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses |
|--|-------|--------------|---|
| High | 1 | Exceptional | Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses |
| | 2 | Outstanding | Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses |
| | 3 | Excellent | Very strong with only some minor weaknesses |
| Medium | 4 | Very Good | Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses |
| | 5 | Good | Strong but with at least one moderate weakness |
| | 6 | Satisfactory | Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses |
| Low | 7 | Fair | Some strengths but with at least one major weakness |
| | 8 | Marginal | A few strengths and a few major weaknesses |
| | 9 | Poor | Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses |
| Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact | | | |

Scored criteria include the following:

1. **Overall Impact:** How well will the project establish a sustained research program with a high likelihood of producing a sustained research program or significant new intellectual property, strengthening international collaboration, expanding research opportunities, and attracting future funding? **[1-9 points]**
2. **Significance:** How well does the project address a significant global health challenge and its potential impact on related policies, health systems, environment, and/or field of research? **[1-9 points]**
3. **Investigators:** How well suited to the project are the primary researchers and international collaborators? How feasible is the proposed international collaboration and will the collaboration produce high quality results? **[1-9 points]**
4. **Innovation:** How well 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? **[1-9 points]**
5. **Approach:** Are the proposed study design and methods sound? Does the study use evidence based or best practices? **[1-9 points]**
6. **Environment:** How well will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? **[1-9 points]**
7. **Future Expansion:** Will this proposed innovation lead to a sustainable change in care that can be expanded and integrated into existing health systems? **[1-9 points]**

In addition to the above scored criteria, reviewers will evaluate the proposal's focus on strengthening collaborative multidisciplinary research collaborations between Indiana CTSI partner institutions

(IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) and key academic research centers abroad, with particular emphasis given to building up existing international partnerships with high potential for reciprocal innovation. All successful proposals must include a budget and budget justification.

VII. Funding Decisions

The review committee will submit final rankings and scores to the Indiana CTSI Global Health Research Platform Chair for review. The Chair will make final funding recommendations to the Indiana CTSI Executive Committee. All applicants will be notified of the funding decisions and given specific feedback on their proposals soon after those decisions have been made.

VIII. Post-Award Requirements

Projects selected for funding will be expected to comply with the following requirements:

- **Responsible Conduct of Research** – Documentation that all personnel in the project have completed a course in the responsible conduct of research such as CITI or an equivalent training.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure** – All personnel must have an up-to-date conflict of interest disclosure form on file with Indiana University. Non-IU affiliated personnel should submit a non-IU affiliate conflict of interest disclosure form available online: http://researchcompliance.iu.edu/coi/coi_disclosure.html.
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval** – The project must provide documentation that all required IRB applications have been submitted no later than 30 days from the day a Notice of Award is received. Documentation of IRB approval must be provided before award funds will be released.

Once all regulatory documentation is on file, the Indiana CTSI Finance Office will facilitate the release of funds to the academic partner. Recipients will have 24 months from the grant start date to complete proposed project activities.

Funded recipients will be required to:

- Submit progress reports every 6 months during the life of the award including a complete description of the work accomplished and related budget expenditures.
- Attend a required “face-to-face” meeting with the Chair of the Indiana CTSI Global Health Platform. Subsequent meetings will be either face to face or via teleconference.
- Present their project results to the Indiana CTSI Global Health Platform leadership committee
- Present their project at an Indiana CTSI or IU Center for Global Health-sponsored event, if requested

If necessary and deemed appropriate, a no-cost extension (NCE) may be granted to pilot grant awardees. Note that only one (NCE) may be granted to each awardee according to current CTSI procedure. Awardees are encouraged to carefully calculate the estimated time needed to complete the project and to request the maximum amount of time that they believe will be required.

A final project report is due 60 days after the end of the project period. All recipients must:

- Summarize the project and primary findings for dissemination to the public (1 page).
- Submit a final project summary report which will include project results; lessons learned; any publications and extramural funding applications applied for and/or received; and plans for sustainability, dissemination, and other next steps (up to 5 pages).
- Every year for up to 5 years after completion of the project, the CTSI will contact recipients to complete a status report on the project; confirm on-going regulatory approvals (IRB); and gather data on publications, extramural funding, or IP that resulted from the project.
- The project is required to acknowledge Indiana CTSI support in all presentations, publications, and reports (<https://www.indianactsi.org/about/cite-the-indiana-ctsi/>)

IX. RFA Timeline

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| RFA Release Date | February 19, 2019 |
| Webinar | March 4, 2019 2 PM Eastern US/Canada |
| Webinar | March 8, 2019 8:00 AM Eastern US/Canada |
| Proposal Application Deadline | April 15, 2019 |
| Notification of Award Decisions | June 14, 2019 |
| Initial Grantee Meeting | June 21, 2019 |
| Deadline for IRB Approval | June 27, 2019 |
| Grant Start Date | June 30, 2019 |
| First Progress Report Due | January 2, 2020 |
| Second Progress Report Due | July 2, 2020 |
| Third Progress Report Due | January 4, 2021 |
| Initial Project Period Ends | July 3, 2021 |
| Final Report Due (unless NCE is approved) | September 2, 2021 |

X. Contact Information

Questions regarding this competition should be sent to Jennifer Thuma, Program Manager of Indiana CTSI Global Health Research at jsthuma@indiana.edu.

XI. Informational Webinar

Interested applicants are encouraged to participate in one of the following informational webinars to learn more about this opportunity and ask questions. **Note:** Webinars will be recorded and posted on the CTSI website at [CTSI Global Health Link](#).

Session 1

Date: March 4th, 2019
Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Online: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/541462814>
Join by Phone: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 541 462 814

Session 2

Date: Mar 8, 2019
Time: 8:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Online: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/541462814>
Join by Phone: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 541 462 814