

University of Massachusetts Boston & Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center  
Partnership to Advance Cancer Health Equity

## REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

<b>SPONSOR:</b>	University of Massachusetts, Boston (UMass Boston) – Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Comprehensive Partnership to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE) (U54) Grant
<b>FUNDING SOURCE:</b>	Federal
<b>AWARD LEVEL:</b>	Seed Projects (up to \$20,000 in direct costs for 6-8 months)

The UMB – DF/HCC Partnership aims to develop strong cancer research programs to understand the reasons behind the significant cancer disparities and related impact of cancer on underserved communities and socio-economically disadvantaged population groups.

The goal of the Partnership is to:

- improve cancer-related research, training, and outreach opportunities for under-represented minority (URM) students, fellows, and early stage investigators; and
- develop evidence-based information and resources toward closing the cancer disparities gap.

For more information about the Partnership, visit [www.umb-dfhcc.org](http://www.umb-dfhcc.org).

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	October 19, 2022 by 11:59 PM EST
<b>Anticipated Award Date:</b>	December 1, 2022



## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the seed grant program is to award projects that provide support for pioneering research at early stages of development that focuses on cancer disparities or cancer sciences. This innovative mechanism is designed for studies that fund research that can provide preliminary support for preparation of larger applications, such as U54 pilot or full projects or at the R-21 or R01 level. Potential fundable projects under this mechanism include, but are not limited to:

- small observational studies to generate hypotheses;
- purchase and analysis of datasets for preliminary analyses;
- conducting meta-analyses for design of future studies; and
- studies that include key experiments that could provide feasibility for larger studies.

All applications must:

- illustrate a new collaboration between UMass Boston and DF/HCC researchers;
- focus on an aspect of cancer or cancer disparities; and
- result in preliminary data to prepare for larger grant proposals.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

- A. Title Page** (limited to 1 page) including: title of the project, names of investigators from both institutions, brief abstract stating why this project is high risk and (potentially) high gain, the 1-2 specific aims, and a proposed timeline for the project.

**IRB/IACUC approval:** State whether IRB or IACUC approval will be required for completion of the project and, if yes, include the status of IRB/IACUC approval for the proposed project. Note that due to the short duration of this seed grant funding, applications in need of IRB or IACUC approval will have to comply with this requirement expeditiously.

- B. Research Strategy** (limited to 3 pages) including:
- potential impact (high risk/potential high gain)
  - scientific rationale based on literature, and approach;
  - description of how this project relates to the overall priorities of the Partnership;
  - description of experimental methods/study design;
  - clear delineation of components of project to be conducted at each institution; and
  - description of how the proposed project could lead external funding (i.e. pilot/full project funding from the Partnership or external funding).
- C. Biosketches:** A current NIH biosketch using the [PHS 398 Biographical Sketch Format Page](#).
- D. Budget:** The proposed budget should be outlined in direct costs only. DF/HCC and UMass Boston collaborators must complete separate budgets which, when combined, do not exceed the award amount. Budgets should be submitted on the [NIH 398 Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period Format Page \(fp4\)](#), and budget justifications should be submitted on the [PHS 398 Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period Format Page \(fp5\)](#). No cost extensions will not be made available if funds are not spent.

## REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by designated review committees. Reviewers will assign a score on the overall application based on the following criteria:

**Impact:** Project is high risk and (potentially) high impact.

**Investigators:** The PIs, collaborators, and other key personnel have the necessary experience and expertise to accomplish the goals of the proposed research project.

**Approach:** The overall strategy, methodology, and analyses are well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project within the proposed timeline.

Projects that include opportunity for participation by URM students and fellows are strongly encouraged.

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Utilization of the Partnership cores is strongly recommended.

### Research Education Core (REC)

The [Research Education Core](#) aims to increase the number of trainees, particularly those from under-represented minority (URM) backgrounds, who are interested in cancer/cancer disparities research. This core is available to investigators to assist with strategizing and developing a URM training program plan that suits the nature of their proposal. Additionally, the REC can help investigators identify UMass Boston students to work as part of their research teams. To request an appointment, please contact [U54REC@umb.edu](mailto:U54REC@umb.edu).

### Research Design and Analysis Core (RDAC)

The [Research Design and Analysis Core](#) offers consultation to investigators who would like guidance regarding the design of their proposal. The RDAC can assist with research design, survey and measure development, qualitative research and feedback on quantitative and qualitative project feasibility. Population science and basic science research projects involving statistical analysis must consult with the RDAC to develop a strategy for study design and data analysis. To request an appointment, please contact Carol Lowenstein ([Carol.Lowenstein@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Carol.Lowenstein@dfci.harvard.edu)).

### Genomics Core

The [Genomics Core](#) is partially funded to assist investigators who wish to incorporate high-throughput NextGen sequencing studies in their study design. Funds are available to help develop incubator projects responding to this RFA for consideration for pilot or full project funding. To request an appointment, please contact Susan Patalano ([susan.patalano@umb.edu](mailto:susan.patalano@umb.edu)) or Jill Macoska ([jill.macoska@umb.edu](mailto:jill.macoska@umb.edu)).

### Outreach Core

The [Outreach Core](#) aims to maximize the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote cancer prevention behaviors in faith-based and other community settings, provide training opportunities for students in outreach research, and offer resources and support to U54 new

and ongoing research projects. The Outreach Core participates in the NCI National Outreach Network (NON) activities, including cross-cutting activities in biobanking. To request an appointment, please contact Shoba Ramanadhan ([Sramanadhan@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:Sramanadhan@hsph.harvard.edu)) or Tiffany Donaldson ([tiffany.donaldson@umb.edu](mailto:tiffany.donaldson@umb.edu)).

## ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- PIs must be appointed as faculty at their respective institutions; post-doctoral fellows are not permitted to serve as PIs on proposals. Research scientists at DF/HCC institutions and research professors at UMB are eligible to serve as PIs.
- Investigators may not a) submit an application if they have received Partnership project funding within the last two years, or b) submit more than one application.
- Investigators affiliated with DF/HCC may apply to become DF/HCC members. To apply for membership, visit [www.dfhcc.harvard.edu/membership](http://www.dfhcc.harvard.edu/membership).

Interested faculty who do not have a UMass Boston or a DF/HCC collaborator may request assistance from the Partnership at [u54partnership@umb.edu](mailto:u54partnership@umb.edu).

**This is a joint application. All materials must be a single PDF file and submitted to Abby Shain at [u54partnership@umb.edu](mailto:u54partnership@umb.edu).**