



Presidential Priorities for Disparities Research

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

SPONSOR:	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
FUNDING SOURCE:	Internal
ELIGIBILITY:	Dana-Farber Instructor or above
AWARD LEVEL:	\$125,000 in direct costs per year for two years (\$250,000 total)

As part of Dana-Farber’s commitment to Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, the Institute aims to develop strong cancer research programs to understand the reasons behind cancer disparities and related impact of cancer on underserved communities and socio-economically disadvantaged population groups. With this goal in mind, four presidential priorities for research funding have been identified:

Priority 1: Understanding the biological basis of cancer and treatment resistance in underserved pediatric and adult cancer populations (examples: Ph-like ALL, Black prostate cancer, Black multiple myeloma).

Priority 2: Assessing novel interventions to promote equitable diffusion/uptake of cancer innovations for patients with pediatric and adult cancer (examples: targeted therapies, high-resource therapies [e.g. proton, MIBG, HSCT], novel sequencing).

Priority 3: Testing methods for addressing data absenteeism and chauvinism in large cancer-focused databases, including data inputs, data quality assessments and analytic adjustment strategies.

Priority 4: Evaluating innovative supportive interventions to achieve equitable access to and outcomes from pediatric and adult cancer care (examples: interventions targeting exercise, nutrition, financial hardship, palliative care, unmet basic resources).

Proposals for this RFA must address one of these four priorities and be accomplishable in the two year performance period.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application:	March 6, 2023 by 11:59 PM EST
Anticipated Award Date:	April 3, 2023

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A) PROJECT INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

This RFA is a call for proposals for research to address cancer disparities and cancer science. We are seeking proposals that focus on developing an understanding of cancer-related disparities through an elucidation of biological, social or behavioral mechanisms, or at their intersection. We are also interested in studies that can mitigate these disparities through interventions.

All applications must:

- specifically address one or more of the above-detailed presidential research priorities; and
- have high potential for leading to external funding through the NIH K-series, R21, R01 mechanisms or through similar foundation support (ACS, AACR, etc).

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All applications must use standard NIH formatting (Arial 11 pt; .5 inch margin all around).

- Title Page** (limited to 1 page) including: title of the project, names of investigator(s), research priorities the proposal addresses, and specific aims.
- Research Strategy** (limited to 6 pages) including:
 - significance, innovation, preliminary studies (encouraged) or scientific rationale based on literature, and approach;
 - description of how this project relates to the presidential research priorities;
 - description of experimental methods/study design;
 - how the proposed project will lead to external peer-reviewed funding;
 - plans for career development and mentorship for less experienced/early stage investigators/co-leaders if they are included as investigators; and
 - timeline of research, including plan for OHRS approval if anticipated, as well as deliverables over two year performance period.
- Biosketches:** NIH biosketches using the [PHS 398 Biographical Sketch Format Page](#) for all investigators.
- Budget:** The proposed budget should be outlined in direct costs only. Budgets should be submitted on the [NIH 398 Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period Format Page \(fp4\)](#) and the [PHS 398 Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period Format Page \(fp5\)](#) with budget justifications included. No cost extensions will rarely be granted if funds are not spent. In addition, a year 1 progress report will be required to document adequate study progress to justify release of year 2 funds. If funded, projects in need of OHRS or IACUC approval must apply in order for funds to be released. Inclusion enrollment reports must also be submitted if required.
- Early Stage Investigators:** Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible. Instructors are welcome to apply but will need a letter of support from their primary research mentor.

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B) PROJECT REVIEW CRITERIA

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

Significance: The project addresses one of the four DFCI presidential disparities research priorities. The aims of the project must advance scientific knowledge, technical capability, and have the potential for impact on the field of cancer disparities.

Innovation: The project utilizes novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Investigators: The PIs, collaborators, and other key personnel have the necessary experience and expertise to accomplish the goals of the proposed research project. If there are more than one investigator, they investigators have complementary and integrated expertise.

Approach: The overall strategy, methodology, and analyses are well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project, and cross-institutional integration of research labs/programs is clearly defined.

Potential for External Funding: There is a high likelihood that the proposed research project will lead to NIH K-series, R21, R01 etc. mechanisms, or other types of foundation funding.

All materials must be incorporated into a single PDF file and submitted to Jessica Santos (jessica_santos@dfci.harvard.edu) by March 6, 2023 by 11:59 PM EST.