



2017 Innovation Pilot Awards Request for Proposal

*Issued: **November 10, 2016***

*Proposals Due: **Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 PM***

*Awards Announced: **Week of March 13, 2017***

*Project Commencement Date: **no later than June 1, 2017***

Center for Innovation

Established by UNC Health Care (UNC HC) and the UNC School of Medicine (UNC SOM), the Center for Innovation (“the Center”) initiates, evaluates, and supports the adoption of disruptive patient-centered innovations in the delivery and financing of health care that align with the quadruple aim. Generally these innovations create a new value proposition for the customer, such as greater simplicity, convenience, and quality at a lower cost. The Center strives to provide rapid assessment, coordinated facilitation, program management, partnership development, and funding for innovation.

Innovation Pilot Awards

Since introducing the Innovation Pilot Awards in 2013, the Center for Innovation has awarded 15 teams approximately \$665,000 total to support innovative pilots in a variety of areas including new models of care, device development, advanced statistical research, and workforce development (see <http://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/Innovation-Pilot-Award-Winners>). Previous award winners have been able to leverage findings gathered during their pilot project to obtain over \$1,150,000 of additional funding.

For the 2017 award round, the Center once again seeks proposals from UNC HC (including all affiliates) and UNC SOM employees for initiatives that support the mission of the Center (see Areas of Interest, below). Up to four (4) awards of up to \$50,000 each are available.

ADDITIONAL INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The NC TraCS \$5K - \$50K Translational Research Matched Pilot Grant Program awards 1-year grants of up to \$25,000 (\$50,000 with required match) 3 times per year. Proposals are intended to provide preliminary data for external grants submissions. Learn more at

<https://tracs.unc.edu/index.php/services/pilot-program/tracs-5k-50k-grants>.

The UNC Institute for Health Care Quality Improvement also offers pilot awards annually. You can learn about the award here: <http://www.med.unc.edu/ihqi/seed-grants>

Areas of Interest

The Center is interested in proposals within the UNC Health Care System across a broad spectrum of interest areas, including:

- Innovative care delivery models and pathways (e.g., population health management, coordination of care, integration of care, novel patient engagement approaches)
- New technologies and new applications for existing technologies (e.g., applications, mobile applications, mobile devices, wearables, clinical devices, decision support)
- Advanced analytics (e.g., clinical risk assessment, event prediction and detection, health outcomes analysis)
- Business model innovations (e.g., financial incentives, new reimbursement models, changes to cost structure)
- Alternative staffing and new workforce development
- Translational research (see below)

Review and Selection Process

Proposals that address business, operational, or other systems and are not classified as translational research will be reviewed and scored by the Innovation Council of the Center for Innovation.

Translational research proposals will be reviewed and scored by the NC TraCS Study Section, with the Center for Innovation making the final funding decision. Translational research may include post-lab, human-ready, actionable scientific discoveries; pre-clinical translational studies; and comparative effectiveness research.

Proposals will be evaluated according to:

- Anticipated meaningful outcomes/significance of the work
- Novelty / innovation of the idea
- Soundness of the proposed approach / methods
- Feasibility of accomplishing the stated project goals within the one-year project period
- Degree of alignment with the mission of the Center for Innovation

Proposals with the following elements will be given strong consideration:

- Cross-disciplinary, multi-partner teams
- Potential for being positively disruptive
- Scalable and sustainable ideas

Eligibility

Eligible proposals and team members must meet all of the following criteria to be considered:

- The PI or Project Leader must be a current employee of UNC HC, any of its affiliates, or UNC SOM
- Members of the Center's Innovation Council may not apply as a lead PI/Project Leader
- Translational research projects must have a PI or co-PI who is an UNC SOM faculty member with an appointment that allows them to serve as PI on an externally sponsored research project. Researchers who hold an Adjunct appointment are not eligible to apply as PI.
- Faculty or employees from other UNC schools (e.g., Pharmacy, Nursing, Public Health, Kenan-Flagler) are welcomed to participate but may not apply as PI or Project Leader. Co-PI's and co-leaders must be current employees of UNC HC, any of its affiliates, or UNC-Chapel Hill.

- There is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by a division, department or individual.
- Project activities must occur primarily at facilities of UNC Health Care and/or its affiliates.
- Project must be limited to one year in scope with a start date no later than June 1, 2017.
- Project should not be submitted elsewhere for funding at the time of the submission to the Center.

How to Apply

Proposals are **due to the Center by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. Proposals must be submitted before the deadline or will not be considered. Proposals must be emailed to innovatehealthcare@med.unc.edu in .pdf format (see Proposal Requirements below).

Proposal Requirements

The proposal package must be emailed in .pdf format to innovatehealthcare@med.unc.edu. The proposal package must include two (2) pdfs:

1. Cover Sheet (available with the RFP on the Center for Innovation website)
2. Full Proposal *in a single .pdf* (descriptions below):
 - a. Project narrative (5 single-spaced page limit)
 - b. Budget (1 single-spaced page limit)
 - c. Budget Justification (1 single-spaced page limit)
 - d. Letters of Support
 - e. Abbreviated CV/Biosketches
 - f. References (1 single-spaced page limit)

The project narrative should be in 12-point font, and must **not exceed** 5 single-spaced pages. The budget, budget justification, letters of support, references and CVs are not included in the narrative 5-page limit.

Required proposal components:

1. Narrative that includes the following sections (responses to all questions under this section #1 should **not exceed** 5 single spaced pages):
 - 1.1. Background and significance of the issue being addressed, including its specific relevance to UNC HCS's patient populations;
 - 1.2. Specific goals of this project, including anticipated outcomes and metrics that will be utilized to measure progress throughout the project cycle;
 - 1.3. Detailed description of project, approach and methods;
 - 1.4. Brief statement of the project's alignment with the missions of UNC HC, UNC SOM, and the Center;
 - 1.5. A project timeline that includes activities, duration, and deliverables for each step, and actions to ensure completion in one year (include a very brief alternative path to achievement of each major activity if problems are encountered);
 - 1.6. List of UNC and non-UNC partners and their roles; and
 - 1.7. Description of scalability potential and sustainability when funding has ended.

2. Detailed budget (not to exceed 1 page) that includes:
 - 2.1. Key personnel costs (salary and fringe);
 - 2.2. Equipment;
 - 2.3. Supplies;
 - 2.4. Travel; and
 - 2.5. Other costs
3. Budget justification (not to exceed 1 single-spaced page) that includes:
 - 3.1. Description of roles of all key staff; and
 - 3.2. Description of each major budget item and how it supports the project goals
4. Letter of support from one of the following: Division Chief, Department Chair, UNC HC Vice President or higher ranking leader from the reporting unit of the PI/Project Leader.
5. If your proposal requires a commitment of time from staff or other resources outside of your department/division/unit (e.g., ISD, hospital operations or administration, other clinics) to implement or assist with coordination of the effort, please also include a short letter of support for use of such resources from the appropriate VP or higher ranking leader.
6. Abbreviated CV / Biosketch for PI/Project Lead (required)
7. Abbreviated CV / Biosketch for other critical team members (optional)
8. References (optional; not to exceed 1 single-spaced page)

Use of Funds

- Awards may not be used for faculty salary support
- Awards may be used to pay salary and benefit expense for staff and other non-faculty project personnel, as well as to fund other direct project-related expenses (e.g. equipment, software, materials) as outlined in the project's budget and approved by the Center.
 - Please note that equipment, software and materials budget items must be reasonable. Teams are encouraged to consider whether technologies or equipment already exist at UNC and may be borrowed or leased during the period of award.
- No indirect costs or overhead charges will be allowed
- Funds will not be released until completion of IRB approval or waiver, as appropriate
- Funding will only be provided for actual expenditures up to the amount of the award

Award Administration and Reporting

- Award recipients will be required to invoice for actual expenses incurred during the one-year project.
- Award recipients will be required to submit:
 - quarterly progress reports; and
 - results and outcomes at six months and one year from award date using a specified format.
- Evaluation of project results will be required in writing to the Center within one month after the conclusion of the project (month 13).

To Learn More

Go to <http://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/Innovation-Pilot-Award-Winners> to learn about the 2013-2016 awards. In addition, questions about this RFP can be sent to innovatehealthcare@med.unc.edu.