2014 Innovation Pilot Awards
Request for Proposals

Issued: **November 13, 2013**
Proposals Due: **January 6th, 2014 at 5:00 PM**
Awards Announced: **February 17, 2014**
Project Commencement Date: **no later than June 1, 2014**

Center for Innovation
The Center for Innovation ("the Center") is a small resource center of the UNC Health Care System (UNC HCS) and the UNC School of Medicine (UNC SOM) established to initiate, evaluate and support adoption of disruptive, patient-centered innovations in the delivery and financing of health care. 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
The Center introduced the Innovation Pilot Awards earlier in 2013 with four awards of approximately $50,000 each (see https://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/files/50k-pilot-awards-april-2013). The Center again seeks proposals from UNC HCS and UNC SOM employees for initiatives that support the mission of the Center. Up to four (4) awards of up to $50,000 each are being offered.

Areas of Interest
For this pilot award, the Center seeks proposals for initiatives that support the mission of the Center. 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 technology deployments and new applications for existing technologies (e.g., applications, mobile apps, 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.

Health care delivery innovation, quality/cost improvement projects and translational research projects are all encouraged. Translational research may include the following:

- studies of post-lab, human-ready, actionable scientific discoveries;
- pre-clinical translational studies;
- comparative effectiveness research.

Review and Selection Process

Translational research proposals will be reviewed and scored by the NC TraCS Study Section with the Center for Innovation making the final funding decision. 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. The project should not be submitted elsewhere for funding at the time of the submission to the Center.

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; and
- 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 the UNC Health Care System, any of its affiliates, or the UNC School of Medicine
- 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 School of Medicine 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.
- 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.

> ### *ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNC EMPLOYEES*
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> - In early 2014, the newly formed **UNC Institute for Healthcare Quality Improvement (IHQI)** plans to announce internal seed grant funding for quality improvement efforts within UNC HCS.
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> - **The NC TraCS $5K - $50K Translational Research Matched Pilot Grant Program** awards one-year grants of up to $25,000 ($50,000 with required match) on a rolling schedule. Proposals are intended to provide preliminary data for external grants submissions. Learn more at https://tracs.unc.edu/plan-research/trac5k-50k.html.

- Project must be limited to one year in scope with an expected start date no later than June 1, 2014.
- 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 January 6th, 2014**. 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 will include two (2) .pdfs:

1. Cover sheet (available at https://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/files/cover-letter-rfp-2014); and

2. Rest of the package *in a single .pdf* (descriptions below):
    a. Project narrative (5 single-spaced page limit)
    b. Budget (1 single-spaced limit)
    c. Budget Justification (1 single-spaced page limit)
    d. Letters of Support
    e. Abbreviated CV/Biosketches
    f. References (no more than 1 single-spaced page each)

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.

A description of the required proposal components:
1. Narrative that includes the following sections:
    1.1. Background and significance of the issue being addressed, including its specific relevance to UNC Hospitals' patient populations
    1.2. Objectives and specific goals of this project
    1.3. Description of project, approach and methods
    1.4. Anticipated impact, results and outcomes with metrics that will be utilized to measure success throughout the project cycle
    1.5. Brief statement of the project's alignment with the missions of UNC Health Care, School of Medicine and the Center
    1.6. A project timeline that includes activities, duration, and deliverables for each step, and actions to ensure completion in one year
    1.7. List of UNC and non-UNC partners and their roles
    1.8. 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
    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
    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 HCS 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.
    o 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, 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:
    o quarterly progress reports
    o 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)

Questions
Questions about this RFP can be addressed to innovatehealthcare@med.unc.edu or 919-843-3357.