MASONIC CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL Grants in Children’s Health Research

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Letter of Intent Due: Monday, August 26, 2019
Full Proposal Due: Monday, September 30, 2019
Source of funding: Minnesota Masonic Charities

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota is soliciting applications for Children’s Health Research. These grants will be awarded through a competitive peer-review process. The Masonic Cross-Departmental grants are intended to support new or expanding interdisciplinary research in Children’s Health that is innovative and has a high potential for future funding and discovery. Up to three awards of $200,000 each ($100,000 in each of years 1 and 2) are expected to be funded with a start date of January 1, 2020.

APPLICATION CRITERIA:

- The PI (Principal Investigator) and Co-PI(s) must each be an active faculty member (any rank, any track) and have primary, paid UMN faculty appointments.
- The project must be interdisciplinary, involving a PI and Co-PI(s) from different departments or colleges/schools; here are some examples: 1) a PI from Neurology or other Medical School department and a Co-PI from Pediatrics; or 2) a PI from Psychiatry and a Co-PI from a different department in any college or school at the UMN.
- Proposals are encouraged from all areas of research within the U of M, but must address an important area of children’s health. All areas of child health research will be considered.
- A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which she/he is the PI or Co-PI. There is no limit to the number of proposals on which a faculty member can participate as a Co-Investigator, Collaborator, etc.
- Current awardees of a Cross-Departmental grant are not eligible.

AWARD AMOUNT / BUDGET INFORMATION:

- The maximum award will be $200,000 awarded over two years ($100,000 in each of years 1 and 2).
- The funds must be designated for the direct support of research. In general, funds should be used for supplies, support of research personnel (research associates, postdocs, clinical research coordinators, graduate students or technicians), small equipment (<$10,000), and fee-for-service use of shared resources (e.g., RAR, scientific services, biostatistics-BDAC, etc.).
- Funds can be used to support faculty salaries (up to 10% paid effort for each PI) using the institutional base salary, up to the NIH salary cap of $192,300.
- Publication costs up to $3K (total) are allowed for work directly supported by this award.
- Funds cannot be used for administrative assistant salaries, service contracts, subawards to other institutions, travel to scientific meetings, or computers unless dedicated to run equipment only.
- These are non-sponsored funds and no F&A costs (indirects) will be supported.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Proposals will be judged on innovation, quality of the research approach, significance to children’s health, synergy of the research team, interdisciplinary, justification for the request (particularly for applications from PIs with substantial funding) and the potential for future external funding to sustain or further develop the program.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Programmatic questions should be directed to Dr. Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari (panos001@umn.edu)
Administrative, budget, and instructions questions should be directed to Emily Kukacka (kukac003@umn.edu)
APPLICATION PROCESS:

LETTER OF INTENT: Due no later than 4:00 pm, Monday, August 26, 2019

Complete the survey (must be done in one sitting): https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2siTsjRViHYrhkx

Complete the Letter of Intent (LOI) (includes PI and Co-PI contact information, title of the application and a one-paragraph summary describing the project). **LOIs will not be scientifically reviewed**, but used to assemble the review panel. An acknowledgement e-mail will be sent within 24 hours to the PI and Co-PI(s) that their LOI has been received.

FULL PROPOSAL: Due no later than 4:00 pm, Monday, September 30, 2019

The full proposal should be evaluable by a general scientific audience and avoid the use of discipline-specific jargon and acronyms. Sufficient space should be devoted to describing the unresolved questions and broad goals of the application, not just the details of specific methods or study design. The following must be included:

a. **Cover page:** List PI and Co-PI(s) contact information, signatures, and title of the proposal.
b. **Summary:** ½ page or less that can be understood by a lay audience.
c. **Research Plan:** This section should include background, hypothesis/specific aims, any preliminary data (optional), approach, and references.
d. **Sustainability:** Explain how these funds will help the project or program to move forward, and the strategy that will be employed to pursue external funding to sustain the project on a longer-term basis.
e. **Interdisciplinary:** Explain how the inter-departmental or inter-collegiate nature of the project will facilitate successful completion of the specific aims.
f. **Roles and Synergy:** Describe the roles of the PI and co-PI(s) on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration.
   **NOTE:** Page limit for items b-f is 6 pages, single spaced, Arial font size 11, margins 0.5 inches on all sides. Page limitation includes figures, tables, and references.
g. **PI and Co-PI(s) Biosketch:** Provide a biosketch for each (in NIH format)
h. **PI and Co-PI(s) Other Support:** Provide current and pending Other Support (in NIH format). This includes annual direct costs and effort commitment for each grant/proposal, and an indication of how each relates to the proposed project. For other support that appears to overlap with this application please clarify how the proposals differ.
i. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Provide two annual detailed budgets (in NIH-format) and one budget justification that briefly justifies the line-items of the budgets (e.g., personnel, supplies, etc.).
j. **Letters:** If independent outside consultants are proposed, a letter from each should be provided indicating their role, responsibilities, cost to the project and how that cost was calculated. (Subawards to other institutions or organizations are not allowed.)
k. Please include applicable IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC approvals.
   **NOTE:** NO PAGE LIMIT for items g-k except biosketches are not to exceed five pages each.

Proposals, sent as a single PDF, are due by 4:00 pm, on Mon., September 30th, 2019 to Emily Kukacka (kukac003@umn.edu).

An acknowledgment e-mail will be sent within 24 hours to the PI and Co-PI(s) that their full application has been received.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The review panel will include faculty members from the AHC and selected other colleges and schools. Unedited written critiques will be provided to applicants. Funds awarded will be available on January 2, 2020.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide a year-one interim progress report prior to receiving year-two funding. A final progress report and a final financial report of all funds expended will be required 60 days after the end of the two-year award period. For funds remaining at the end of the award period, a 1-year extension request will be considered, following which all remaining funds will be recovered by the Department of Pediatrics on behalf of the Masonic Children’s Health Fund.