



Funding Opportunity Announcement:

FY17 Collaboratory on School and Child Health Seed Grants

A. KEY DATES

- Monday, April 10, 2017 Call for applications posted
- Friday, May 26, 2017 (11:59 pm EDT) Deadline for submitting applications
- Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Applicants notified of decision
- June 19, 2017 – June 18, 2018 Award period
- Friday, December 21, 2018 Final report due to CSCH
- June 28, 2019 Deadline for external grant submission

B. PURPOSE

The Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH) is sponsoring a low cost, short duration grant program that promotes research in alignment with the CSCH mission. The CSCH mission is to facilitate innovative and impactful connections across research, policy, and practice arenas relevant to school and child health. Funded through the Provost Academic Plan Competition, CSCH serves as a central resource to university and external partners engaged in efforts that inform healthy, safe, supportive, and engaging environments for all children.

CSCH will provide up to \$10,000 in funding for each of two projects. Eligible projects include those aligned with the vision of CSCH to promote an integrated approach to health and learning through collaborations across the components within the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscs/index.htm>). As an extension of our fall 2016 screening of the documentary *Resilience* (<http://kpjrfilms.co/resilience/>), we are particularly interested in funding at least one proposal that targets adverse childhood experiences.

In acknowledging the low cost, short duration of the call, eligible studies may incorporate a range of foci and techniques (e.g., qualitative and/or quantitative methods to collect initial data, analyze secondary sources of data, develop interventions). The goal is to fund proposals that explore and extend knowledge about school and child health in new directions, thus building capacity for strong external grant applications submitted through InCHIP.

Results are expected to support decision-making in intended settings; thus, proposals must include plans for dissemination of findings by the end of the grant period. As such, at least one oral briefing and one written brief written for intended practitioners and/or policymakers should be completed. Preference will be given to studies that define impact in and relevance to New England-based settings.

Dual-PI grant proposals are permitted, with an interdisciplinary focus encouraged as consistent with the goals of CSCH. Each PI must be an approved InCHIP and CSCH affiliate by the time the final proposal is submitted (<http://chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/affiliate-application/>).

C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY & REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Two awards of up to \$10,000 each are available for this seed grant competition. All grant funds must be expended within period of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CSCH.

Seed grant funds may only be used for direct costs of carrying out approved projects, such as:

- a. Personnel who are essential for conducting the research project, such as graduate research assistants and student labor. Individuals who are not on the regular state payroll (i.e., consultants and other off-campus assistance) may be hired to perform special research-related tasks as needed.
- b. A portion of the salary of an Investigator (PI, Co-I) who is employed by a community-based organization and not by UConn.
- c. Resources that require fee-for-services within UConn.
- d. Participant incentives for recruitment or study participation.
- e. Travel that is necessary to conduct the research, NOT travel to present the results of the research, or travel to explore future funding opportunities.
- f. Equipment necessary for conducting the research ("equipment" is defined as an article of tangible, nonexpendable, personal property that costs \$5,000 or more).
- g. Project supplies, including drugs and services.
- h. Other specifically authorized expenses that are essential for carrying out the project.

Seed grant funds may not be used for the following:

- a. The salary of the UConn Principal Investigator, UConn Co-Investigator(s), or any UConn faculty member.
- b. Living expenses.
- c. Service/maintenance contracts on equipment.
- d. Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations.
- e. Institutional and/or individual memberships in professional organizations.
- f. Travel to professional meetings to present the results of the research, or any conference attendance.
- g. Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries.

- h. Costs associated with the publication of results of the research, such as publication fees or purchase of reprints.
- i. Investigator training costs, including tuition.

D. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. Proposals must be novel and are encouraged to take an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the study of school and child health. The PI is expected to make appropriate and significant contributions to the proposed research, and to perform new research that could not be achieved without seed grant funding.
2. A UConn PI is required and must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - a. The UConn PI must have an eligible faculty appointment at UConn, and s/he must be eligible to submit grants through InCHIP. Eligible faculty appointments are tenured or tenure-track faculty, in-residence research faculty, clinical faculty, other research faculty, research scientists/scholars, and adjunct faculty. Eligible faculty are not restricted to junior faculty.
 - b. Ineligible faculty appointments are post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants and research associates, visiting titles, and extension titles.
 - c. The UConn PI must be an approved InCHIP and CSCH affiliate *by the time the final proposal is submitted*. Please allow at least two weeks for approval.
3. Graduate students are not eligible to be a PI.
4. Seed grant proposals must be predominantly the work of the PIs and for the benefit of the PIs' research programs. Proposals written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs' names are not permitted.
5. Two PIs are permitted on the seed grant, with encouragement that dual PIs offer an interdisciplinary perspective. Other individuals may serve as Co-Is or significant contributors, but not as PIs.
6. The proposed research must be consistent with the mission of CSCH – see <http://csch.uconn.edu/what-we-do/>.
7. The proposed seed grant project should address a novel research question, not a research question that is already being explored as part of an existing project.
8. Changes to the project's objectives and budget will require prior approval from relevant CSCH staff.
9. The PIs must commit in good faith to using the seed grant funds to obtain pilot data to support an external grant proposal that will be submitted through InCHIP by June 28, 2019.
10. If the PI has an InCHIP seed grant from a previous fiscal year, s/he must close out that award prior to the start of the award period for the FY17 CSCH Seed Grant.
11. Each individual may only submit one proposal for this competition as a Principal Investigator (PI).

E. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMISSION

Note. This competition does not require submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Any questions regarding eligibility of the proposed project should be addressed to csch@uconn.edu prior to submitting a full proposal.

Full proposals must be submitted no later than **May 26, 2017** at 11:59 pm EDT. Proposals must be paginated as a single document and should be submitted electronically as an attachment (.pdf format) to csch@uconn.edu.

The application must include the following:

- a. Project Title & PI(s) Contact Information (first page)
- b. Abstract/Project Summary (second page - maximum 3000 characters)
- c. Research and Dissemination Plan (maximum 3 pages)
 - I. Specific Aims
 - II. Research Strategy– brief description of significance, innovation, and approach
 - III. Dissemination plan and reference to proposal fit within the WSCC model (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wsc/index.htm>).
- d. References (not included in the page limits for the Research Plan)
- e. Brief discussion of how proposal is related to any current projects being conducted by the PI(s), and plans for seeking future extramural funding (maximum 1 page)
- f. Roles and functions of project personnel, including individual responsibilities of the PI(s) (maximum 1 page)
- g. Budget with justification for each item
- h. Biographical sketch of PI(s), in NIH or NSF format
- i. Other Sources of Support for the proposed project (e.g., additional funding, in-kind services, equipment)
- j. Optional: Other Letters of Support

Proposals should be single-spaced, prepared on standard (8.5x11") paper, with one-inch margins and font no smaller than 11 point.

Full proposals will undergo a rigorous review process, with reviewers comprised from the CSCH Steering Committee. One or more external reviewers may be consulted as well. Individuals who are Senior/Key Personnel or Other Significant Contributors on a seed grant proposal will be excluded from participation in the review process.

Each PI will be notified via email whether or not his/her proposal has been awarded funding.

F. REVIEW CRITERIA

Priority for funding will be based on the following review criteria, in no particular order:

- Scientific merit of the research plan.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative in extending knowledge about school and child health. *Preference given to proposals that target research in adverse childhood experiences and/or have impact/relevance in New England-based settings.*
- Relevance of the proposal to the mission of CSCH, including reference to proposal fit within the WSCC model (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscs/index.htm>).
- Appropriateness of the dissemination plan.
- Importance of the research question to external funders, including feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent proposal to external funders no later than June 28, 2019.
- Appropriate and significant scientific contributions by the PI towards completing the aims of the study.
- Composition of the research team (*preference will be given to diverse teams that include multiple disciplines and/or community partners*).

G. AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

If awarded, the PI(s) is not required to route her/his seed grant proposal through Sponsored Programs Services (SPS).

The awarded PI(s) is responsible for obtaining all required approvals for her/his research. Please visit the UConn IRB website for more information on IRB approval for research conducted at the UConn-Storrs Campus, the five regional campuses, the School of Law and the School of Social Work. For information on IRB approval for research conducted at UConn Health, please visit the UConn Health IRB website.

Awardees will be required to submit a brief summary report of their progress at the mid-project period, and a final report within 6 months of the conclusion of the award period (by December 21, 2018). Changes to the project's objectives, PI(s), and budget will require prior approval from relevant CSCH staff.

Detailed awardee instructions/requirements will be distributed to seed grant winners when they are notified of the award decisions. All awardee requirements described above are subject to change in accordance with updated institutional procedures (e.g., routing requirements).

H. CONTACT

For questions not addressed in this call for applications, please contact CSCH at csch@uconn.edu.