



Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies (CBITs)

Inaugurated in September of 2011, the Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies (CBITs) is supported by Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, and Department of Medical Social Sciences. CBITs provides a unique scientific home for a multidisciplinary group of faculty and researchers who integrate behavioral science, information and communications technologies, and clinical intervention research to develop and evaluate behavioral intervention technologies (BITs) that promote physical and mental health through behavior change.

www.cbits.northwestern.edu

Pilot Grant Request for Applications

The Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies (CBITs) is offering pilot grants for the development of Behavioral Intervention Technologies to Northwestern University faculty investigators. Proposed projects may include a range of eHealth or mHealth (e.g. internet or mobile phone) intervention research, including intervention development and evaluation, human-computer interaction research, or other area related to Behavioral Intervention Technologies (BITs).

To qualify, investigators must be full time Northwestern University faculty. The CBITs Pilot Grant Program is designed to support pilot or small projects that are innovative and have potential to generate externally funded grants. The aim is to catalyze BITs research within the Northwestern community.

Proposals should not exceed \$20,000; this may cover all the costs, or part of the costs if other funds are in hand. Salary support cannot exceed 2% of PI salary (NIH cap applies). Investigators may make use of the Center's *Purple* system, which allows for the development and deployment of eHealth and mHealth interventions (see "Services" on www.cbits.northwestern.edu for more information on *Purple*). CBITs will hold an in-person *Purple* introduction session Friday November 18th 2011 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, at the Stamler Conference Room, Suite 1400, 680 N. Lake Shore Drive. A video of the session will also be archived and available on the CBITs website. Once awarded, CBITs programmers will be available to provide up to 40 hours of additional training and support in *Purple*. The grant applicant can also choose to apply grant funds towards additional CBITs programmer time for more complex development efforts.

Review Criteria: Ideal proposals will clearly demonstrate the following elements:

- Innovation and novelty of proposed research
- Strong potential to lead to meaningful impact on physical and/or mental health - successful proposals will provide a clear description of this impact.
- Clear objectives, a detailed timeline, anticipated results and outcome measures
- A plan to secure future funding from other sources upon completion of the project

The application process and format for the award is described on the [CBITs](#) and [NUCATS Assist websites](#).

The deadline to submit full applications to NUCATS Assist :

<https://grants.nubic.northwestern.edu/welcome> is Monday, January 10th, 2012 by 5 pm.

Applicants will receive review feedback.

Awards will be announced late February 2012 on the CBITs website. Project period is 12 months and can commence on or after April 1st, 2012, ending March 31st, 2013. All funds have to be expended by June 30th, 2013. Departmental approval is needed. Funds will be released quarterly contingent upon PI's timely submission of quarterly progress reports to CBITs administration.

If you have questions about this RFA, please contact Joyce Ho, Ph.D., CBITs Research Implementation Core Leader, j-ho@northwestern.edu, or 312-503-5387.

Grant Instructions

Font

Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points. (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size requirement still applies.)

Paper Size and Page Margins

Use *standard paper size* (8 ½" x 11).

Use single spaced, at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. No information should appear in the margins, including the PI's name and page numbers.

The following (Items 1-4) should not exceed 5 pages.

- 1) Project Overview:
 - a) Principal Investigator:
 - b) Co-investigators/Collaborators:
- 2) Project Title
- 3) Specific Aims (Approx. 1/2 page)
 - a) State concisely the goals and objective of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
- 4) Research Strategy (Use the following headings)
 - a) *Significance* (Approx. 1/2 page)
 - i) Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
 - ii) Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
 - iii) Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - b) *Innovation* (Approx 1/2 page)
 - i) Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
 - ii) Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or

- interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- iii) Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- c) *Approach (Approx. 3 pages)*
- i) Describe the overall development and/or experimental strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
 - ii) If the project involves early development, describe any strategy to establish usability, feasibility of the intervention and/or trial procedures, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
 - iii) Include a detailed timeline.
 - iv) If applicable, provide a plan of how CBITs services, such as the Purple BIT development system, will be used.
 - v) Describe in detail how this pilot project will directly lead to the pursuit of future research funding.
- d) Preliminary studies (Approx ½ page)
- i) Discuss the PI's preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application.