Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology (Ce-PIM)
Request for Pilot Study Applications

Key Dates
Release/Posted Date: Saturday, January 4th, 2014
Letter of Intent Date: Monday, February 3rd, 2014
Application Submission/Receipt Date: Monday, April 21st, 2014
Peer Review Date(s): April/May 2014
Ce-PIM’s Executive Committee Review/Decisions: late May/early June 2014
Earliest Anticipated Start Date(s): July 2013

Executive Announcement Summary
This request for applications solicits pilot study grant applications from early career scientists currently conducting or interested in conducting research in implementation science and/or implementation methodology related to the prevention of drug abuse, sexual risk behavior, and/or HIV/AIDS. The three purposes of this competitive funding opportunity are to: (1) initiate significant and innovative research by early career investigators in the fields of implementation research and methodology; (2) promote scholarly publications and scientific presentations derived from these pilot studies; and (3) promote the submission of R01s to the NIH or R01 equivalents to NIH sister agencies. A unique opportunity for applicants receiving funding under this announcement is access to Ce-PIMs resources, including mentoring and training from world-renowned prevention methodologists, developers of evidence-based drug abuse and sexual risk behavior preventive interventions, and implementation researchers from interdisciplinary fields.

The Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology (Ce-PIM) on Drug Abuse and Sexual Risk Behavior plans on committing approximately $50,000 this year to fund 4-6 pilot study grants in response to this request for applications this year. Although the funds available per award will vary depending on the scope of the research proposed, it is expected that award funds will be approximately $10,000 per year for two years. Each application should submit a plan with two years of funding. The maximum total costs (including any indirect costs) that can be submitted for the two years cannot exceed $25,000. Funding will be awarded one year at a time; funding for year 2 is largely dependent on adequate progress toward completion of the goals of the pilot study during year 1.

Detailed Information

Background. The field of prevention science has amassed an impressive range of behavioral interventions, practices, and policies that have demonstrated benefit in preventing the incidence of drug abuse/dependence, preventing the initiation or escalation of drug use, and preventing or reducing high risk sexual behaviors leading to HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases (Institute of Medicine, 2009; http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12480). However, these programs have seen little implementation in communities, schools, primary care, and other service delivery systems. Major research challenges for the field now focus on understanding how effective programs can be made available and adopted by communities and organizations, and delivered with fidelity to populations in need (IOM, 2009, Chapter 11). The new field of implementation science demands new research designs, measures, and approaches to modeling a new agenda built on interdisciplinary, empirical research. A major perspective that needs to guide this field comes from systems science, which provides a rich set of tools to examine
complex interactions that occur in implementation (Mabry, Olster, Morgan, and Abrams, 2008; http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(08)00431-5/references)

**Objective.** Ce-PIM solicits pilot study grant applications from early career scientists currently conducting or interested in conducting significant and innovative research in implementation science or methodology as related to the prevention of drug abuse, sexual risk behavior, and/or HIV/AIDS. Applicants must propose research that is consistent with the mission and aims of Ce-PIM (see below). Emphasis will be placed on those applications that either develop or use innovative methods for implementation research. The term methodology can involve quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods approaches; it can involve measurement, design, modeling, or analysis. Special emphasis is placed on systems science methodology, including such methods as agent based modeling, social network analysis, system dynamics, systems engineering, and other computational methods.

The purpose of this competitive funding opportunity is to: (1) encourage significant and innovative research in drug abuse, sexual risk behavior, and HIV/AIDS implementation research from early career scientists; (2) promote scholarly publications and scientific presentations derived from these pilot studies; and (3) promote the submission of R01s to the NIH or R01 equivalents to NIH sister agencies funded. Applicants funded under this request for applications are expected to publish at least 1 article in a peer review journal and present their findings at a national scientific meeting. All pilot study principal investigators will have access to Ce-PIMs resources, including access to a cadre of distinguished prevention scientists/methodologists. The Ce-PIM scientists and representative areas of research available for mentoring include, but are not limited to:

- Dr. Hendricks Brown – Prevention Science Methodology and Implementation Research
- Dr. Sheppard Kellam – Prevention Science Methodology and Public Health Psychiatry
- Dr. Thomas Valente – Social Network Analysis and Modeling in Health
- Dr. Lawrence Palinkas – Preventive Medicine, Cross-Cultural Medicine, and Health Services Research
- Dr. David Mohr – Preventive Medicine, Behavioral Technologies Development
- Dr. Lillian Gelberg – Primary Care Drug Abuse Preventive Interventions
- Dr. Gina Wingood – HIV and STD Prevention Interventions for African Americans
- Dr. Ralph DiClemente – HIV and STD Prevention Interventions for African Americans
- Dr José Szapocznik –Family-Based Drug Abuse and Problem Behavior Interventions for Hispanic Populations
- Dr. Hilda Pantin – Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Interventions for Hispanic Populations
- Dr. Guillermo (Willy) Prado – Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Interventions for Hispanic Populations
- Dr. Erin Kobetz – Community Based Participatory Research,
- Dr. Neil Johnson –Collective Behavior and Complexity Research
- Dr. Sara Czaja – Aging, Cognition and Systems Engineering
- Dr. Mitsunori Ogihara – Computer Science and Intelligent Data Analysis
- Dr. Sanjay Mehrotra – Health Engineering Systems and Optimization
- Dr. Brian Mustanski – LGBT Health Development and Intervention Development.
- Dr. Greg Aarons – Organizational Readiness for Implementation of Evidenced Based Practices

It is expected that mentors and mentees have regular contact (i.e., monthly) during the two year study.
Also, Ce-PIM has extended ties with many ongoing prevention implementation research projects that are currently being conducted, as well as scientific organizations that provide mentoring, such as the National Hispanic Science Network. Information about these sites and opportunities for collaboration are available from the Executive Coordinator listed below.

**Ce-PIM's Mission and Aims.** The mission of the Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology for Drug Abuse and Sexual Risk Behavior is to facilitate research on prevention implementation through the development and application of innovative methods. Ce-PIM uses the NIH/IOM definition of implementation, which is "the use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based health interventions and change practice patterns within specific settings". Ce-PIM's three aims are:

* **Aim 1.** To integrate and extend system science methods to address critical research challenges of federally funded implementation research aimed at preventing drug use and sexual risk behaviors.

* **Aim 2.** To facilitate the seamless integration of methodology into the next generation of prevention implementation research on drug use and sexual risk behavior.

* **Aim 3.** To develop a new hybridized form of implementation research by integrating methods within the practice of prevention implementation at the federal, state, county, and local levels.

**Examples of Potential Applications.** The following illustrates some potential areas of interest, but are not meant to exclude other priority areas.

- Development or refinement of a measure of community, organizational, or institutional characteristics (e.g., measuring established prevention infrastructure) related to implementation research.

- Implementation research in underserved and minority communities.

- Development of an assessment procedure to characterize implementation strategies and processes and conduct interviews.

- Collection and analysis of social network data pertaining to adoption, implementation fidelity, or sustainability of an implementation program.

- Pilot work to adapt an evidence-based preventive intervention to other systems or contexts, including primary care settings.

- Simulation work to model implementation processes.

- Innovative uses of mixed methods in implementation research.

- Development of methods to facilitate the delivery of programs, or their monitoring and feedback systems to support fidelity and adherence.

- Methods or applications to assess the level of program adaptation that occurs.

- Develop innovative evaluation designs to conduct research built on the practice of prevention implementation at the federal, state, county, or local levels.
Funds Available and Reporting Requirements. Ce-PIM plans on committing approximately $50,000 this year to fund 4-6 pilot study grants in response to this request for applications this year. Although the funds available per award will vary depending on the scope of the research proposed, it is expected that award funds will be approximately $10,000 (total costs – i.e., including any indirect costs). It is anticipated that each award will be two years in duration, and applications should plan and submit budgets for a full two years. Thus, on average, awards will be $10,000 per year for two years. Funding for year 2 is largely dependent on adequate progress toward completion of the goals of the pilot study during year 1. Total costs (i.e., including any indirect costs) are limited to a maximum of $25,000 over the two-year period.

All pilot studies will receive oversight from Ce-PIM’s Pilot and Mentoring Subcommittee and the Ce-PIM's Administration Core. Principal investigators will be required to submit a 1-2 page progress report at 6 months and 12 months, as well as brief (one paragraph) monthly summary progress reports. The summary progress reports will be presented to the Ce-PIM’s Executive Committee on a monthly basis. At 6 month intervals, the Pilot and Mentoring Committee’s Co-Chairs will review projects to assess achievement of milestones or protocol completion. In addition to the written report, mentees will be asked to participate on a conference call (at 6-month intervals) to assess the study's progress. Projects making significant progress during year 1 will receive funding for a second year. Those projects receiving a second year of funding will be required to submit a final report at the completion of the project to the Co-Chairs of the Pilot and Mentoring Subcommittee. Any obstacles or other problems, including changes in scope, must be reported to Dr. Guillermo Prado at the contact information reported below.

Eligible Applicants. All early career individuals, including post-doctoral trainees, with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are invited to respond to this request for applications. Early career individuals are individuals who have completed their terminal research degree within 10 years and have not been funded by an NIH R01 (or NIH R01 equivalent). In particular, this excludes applicants who have received an R01 or R01 equivalent. Applicants can, however, be currently funded on other research and training programs, such as a K-award or other early career awards, an NIH or OBSSR fellowship in implementation science or systems science, or a postdoctoral fellowship. Exact criteria are equivalent to the Early Stage Investigator (ESI) definition used by NIH (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators), and applicants are urged to contact the Ce-PIM Executive Coordinator if there is any question of eligibility. Undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students are not eligible for this competitive funding. Only one application will be accepted from each Principal Investigator for a single due date.

Applicants from diverse backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are encouraged to apply.

Eligible Institutions. Below are the institutions eligible and encouraged to apply.

Higher Education Institutions:
- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education
- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
For profit Organizations
  • Small Businesses
  • For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Governments
  • State Governments
  • County Governments
  • City or Township Governments
  • Special District Governments
  • Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Federally Recognized)
  • Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Other than Federally Recognized)
  • Eligible Agencies of the Federal Government
  • U.S. Territory or Possession

Other
  • Independent School Districts
  • Public Housing Authorities/Indian Housing Authorities
  • Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
  • Faith-based or Community-based Organizations
  • Regional Organizations

Allowable Expenses. Below are allowable and non-allowable grant expenses.

Allowable expenses include:
  • Research supplies, services, or participant incentives/honoraria related to conducting the research plan.
  • Specialized computer software required to carry out the research.
  • Consultant fees for specific expertise.
  • Conference calls or meetings specifically related to the research agenda and interdisciplinary perspective appropriate to the project.
  • Domestic travel will be allowed for the Principal Investigator to visit another institution to collect data, convene research and/or work on a dataset or a paper related to the funded project.
  • Domestic travel will be allowed for the Principal Investigator to present their findings at a national scientific conference such as, but not limited to, the annual NIH Dissemination and Implementation Conference and the Society for Prevention Research Conference.
  • Institutional overhead up to a maximum of 8%. However, it is highly encouraged that applicants work with their institution to waive all indirect costs.

Non-allowable expenses include:
  • Salary payments, student fees, and tuition.
  • Office rent or telephone charges (other than conference calls).
  • Computer hardware.
  • Reimbursement for activities that occur before the project period begins.
  • Activities already supported by another grant.

Content and Form of Application Submission. All proposals must include the following items:
  • SF424 (R and R) cover page with signature of authorized institutional representative.
  • Project Description / Abstract.
  • 1-page specific aims.
• 4-page research plan (including significance, innovation, methods, and relevance of proposed project to Ce-PIM's aims and mission).
• 1-page proposed 2 year timeline.
• 2-page career development and mentoring plan. This section should include how Ce-PIM funds will be used to enhance the research careers (i.e., to apply for an R01, to apply for a certain PA) of the applicant. This section must also specify what the products of the project will be (e.g., manuscript, R01 submission, etc.), when these products will be delivered, and how such products will serve the center.
• Detailed budget of planned expenditures and budget justification.
• NIH Biosketch.
• One letter of support from advisor/mentor/department chair and one from the applicant’s institution if different from that of the primary mentor.

Submission and Award Dates
Letters of intent should be sent no later than 5:00pm (EST) on Monday, February 3rd, 2014. Please note that letters of intent are not required and are not binding. However, these letters will be informative for forming the review committee, particularly in providing expert scientific review and to avoid conflicts of interest. We therefore highly encourage all potential applicants to submit a letter of intent and recommend it includes:
• Full name and home institution of the proposed pilot study PI
• Draft title for the proposed pilot study.
• Draft abstract of the proposed pilot study.
• Proposed institutional mentors and Ce-PIM mentors.

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Monday, April 21st, 2014. Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted. It is anticipated that funding announcements will be made June 2014 with earliest anticipated start date of proposed research projects on July 2014. An entire application package in PDF format must be submitted electronically to Juan Villamar (contact information below).

Application Review Criteria. Review criteria will parallel that of NIH's and include the study's: 1) significance: 2) investigator: 3) innovation: 4) approach: 5) environment: and 6) overall impact. Additional review criteria include: relevance of the proposed project to Ce-PIM’s mission and aims, potential for the proposed project to develop into an NIH R01 (or R01 equivalent), and the investigator's career and mentoring plan. Note that the review will also take into account the size of the proposed budget in relationship to the scope of the research project being proposed. All applications will be reviewed using procedures similar to that of the NIH's Center for Scientific Review (CSR).

Contacts:
We encourage your inquiries concerning this pilot funding opportunity. Inquires should be directed to:

Juan Villamar, MS.Ed.
Executive Coordinator, Ce-PIM
Email: juan.villamar@northwestern.edu
Tel: 312-503-4327

Guillermo Prado, Ph.D.
Pilot and Mentoring Committee Co- Chair, Ce-PIM
Email: gprado@med.miami.edu
Tel: 305-243-2748