University of North Texas (UNT) Center for Psychosocial Health Disparities Research (CPHDR)
Request for Proposals (RFP) for Improving Behavioral Health of Underserved Groups (2022-2023)
Proposal deadline: Reviews begin October 15, 2022

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1. Introduction and Purpose
The UNT CPHDR seeks research proposals aimed at improving the behavioral health of underserved groups, especially in U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 6. For example, the 2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports indicated major disparities in mental health treatment for racial and ethnic minority populations, as well as rural populations (AHRQ, 2021). This proposal seeks to fund research aimed at redressing these and other disparities in mental health research and care. Proposals from faculty and students working in HHS Region 6 as well as at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) will be given priority weighting during review and selection.

2. Award Amounts and Number of Awards:
Up to $10,000 for faculty/post-doctoral-led research (2 awards annually)
Up to $1,000 for graduate/undergraduate-led research (6 awards annually)
Up to $5,000 for research in the area of developing or validating Spanish-language mental health instruments (1 award annually, either faculty or student-led)

3. Eligible Participants and Projects
Any student with a faculty mentor or any faculty member working in a U.S.-based graduate program in behavioral or mental health is eligible to apply. Students must have a faculty mentor, to whom the award will be made to support the student research. Specifications for this award are broadly and flexibly defined. Projects may focus on any aspect of improving behavioral or mental health of underserved groups. One award (up to $5,000 annually) will be made for projects (either faculty or student led) focused on validating or making available Spanish-language instruments for behavioral health.

4. Budget and allowable costs
Applicants have considerable flexibility in proposing how to utilize funds. However, indirect costs are not allowed for any projects. Faculty-led or post-doctoral-led awards may propose budgets up to $10,000 and student-led awards may propose budgets up to $1,000. One award focused on Spanish-language instruments may be up to $5,000 and either faculty or student-led. Funds may be utilized for any of the following (or some combination of these):
   • Research expenses incurred, such as, but not limited to:
     o Recruitment incentives
     o Web survey costs
5. Proposal deadline and start date

Review of proposals for the 2022-2023 cycle will begin on October 15, 2022 and will continue until awards have been distributed. Earliest possible start date would be November 1, 2022, but may not begin until later depending on review process and securing award agreements. All invoices must be submitted and incurred by June 30, 2023.

6. Proposal Submission Process

All applications must be submitted through Qualtrics at: https://tinyurl.com/UNTdisparitygrants

Applicants will be asked to provide or upload:
1) Applicant CV
2) Brief description of the project (i.e., <500 words)
3) Anticipated project outcomes (i.e., <200 words)
4) Anticipated Timeline (i.e., <200 words)
5) Requested amount and how funds will be used
6) Students only: identification of faculty mentor who will oversee funding expenditures

7. Review and Selection Process

Review of proposals will begin October 15, 2022. Because the available funding limits the number of awards that can be made, the process will be competitive, and it may not be possible to support all worthy proposals. A panel of faculty and staff affiliated with the UNT CPHDR will evaluate and score all proposals using a standardized rating instrument and make award decisions based on applications with the highest score.

Factors in scoring merit of the project include: evidence of the investigator’s ability to carry out the project, importance of the proposed work and its potential for impact, soundness of the work plan, and likelihood for it to promote future research. Extra points will be provided to applicants at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and proposals conducted in Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 6.

Each section of the grant proposal will be weighted as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant ability (CV)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Outcome and Timeline</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Expenditures</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work done at MSI</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work done in HHS Region 6</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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8. Inquiries
   Please direct all inquiries to Drs. Camilo Ruggero or Jennifer Callahan at disparities@unt.edu. To inquire about current status of the RFP (awards distributed or not), please visit our website at https://disparities.unt.edu and select the tab “Grant Opportunities.”

9. Notes and Funding source
   Provision of awards are dependent on availability of funding and successful subcontract agreement with your university. They are not guaranteed until funds have been provided. This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a 7/1/2022-6/30/2023 award totaling $676,593 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.