

2025 Global Health Pilot Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

PURPOSE: The mission of the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health (MHIGH) is to alleviate the most pressing global health challenges and promote healthy lives through training and mentorship of global health scholars, innovative scientific research, and groundbreaking service and capacity building initiatives embedded in genuine collaboration, trust and multi-directional global health partnerships.

The goal of the MHIGH Pilot Project mechanism is to catalyze innovation in any mission area that involves collaboration between experienced investigators at UAB and international partners addressing a major global health problem. Funded projects will include mentorship of junior investigators or trainees. Projects are encouraged to focus on problems relevant to Low-or Middle- Income Country (LMIC) settings, include transdisciplinary collaborations, and seek co-funding (other institutes, Sparkman Center for Global Health, University-wide Interdisciplinary Centers and/or Departments and Divisions). These projects are useful to generate preliminary data for larger projects, support promising investigators, and/or build capacity to improve outcomes over the long term.

DURATION OF FUNDING: 12-24 months

RANGE OF REQUESTED FUNDS: \$5,000-20,000 (additional co-funding is encouraged)

NUMBER OF AWARDS: 2-5

TIMELINE:

- RFA Released: November 22, 2024
- Application Deadline: February 25, 2025 (midnight CT)
- Awards Announced: March 31, 2025
- Earliest Funding Start: March 31, 2025

ELIGIBILITY: Applications may focus on research, training, service and/or education in a priority global health area as defined by the Sustainable Development Goals #3 and others at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

A principal investigator (PI) of the application must be a faculty member (or trainee working with a faculty member) in the UAB Heersink School of Medicine and must include a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) or Co-investigators in partner countries especially LMICs as defined by the World Bank. <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519> Other MPIs or Co-investigators may be included from any UAB school or partner country. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Submit the following components via “InfoReady-UAB Office of Research Application Portal” [<https://uab.infoready4.com/#>] prior to the application deadline at midnight (Central Time) on February 25, 2025.

1. Cover Page: include project title, Principal Investigator’s name, title, department, phone number and e-mail address; names, titles and affiliations of other MPIs and/or co-investigators.
2. Specific Aims: up to one page overview of the proposal that outlines significance, innovation, aims, and future funding plans.
3. Project Strategy: up to four (4) single-spaced pages, 11 point Arial font, and 0.5-inch margins. See **CRITICAL ELEMENTS** section below.
4. Budget: include the categories of materials and supplies, equipment, and other activities and

services needed to complete the project.

5. Budget Justification: Justify each amount requested and explain what the funds will accomplish.
6. Biosketch: NIH biosketch format of the PI and key investigators.
7. Submit a single PDF file with application components in the order outlined above.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS THE PROJECT STRATEGY SHOULD INCLUDE (4 pages total):

Significance and Innovation: Briefly explain the importance/significance of the proposed project in the context of global health. Describe the innovative nature of the proposal and how the proposed project will support the mission of the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health and advance global health research, service, education, and/or partnerships. Describe how the project is unique compared to other efforts and what is new about the approach or the information that will result from the project. Note the specific funding sources and mechanisms to be targeted with the results from the proposed project, as well as the timeline for follow-on submissions.

Approach: Summarize the methodology/activities, data collection plans, and the timeframe that is proposed to address the specific aims.

Transformational Impact: Briefly describe the potential transformational impact of achieving these goals. Explain how findings and outcomes will enhance future larger projects and support additional funding proposals. Provide specific benchmarks for the duration of the study period.

Preliminary or Related Findings and Environment: Describe current and past efforts of the team that are relevant to this project. Describe any available resources such as local technology and/or support from co-investigators.

Investigators and Project Team: Describe the expertise of the PI and the collaborative team. **Each application must include at least one trainee, who will serve an integral role on the project.** The integration of junior faculty or trainees with other UAB faculty/researchers at various levels is required by MHIGH to advance all pilot projects within the context of a team building approach and the true spirit of global health partnerships. Explain how the team will interact to achieve the goals of the project and secure future funding. Evidence of community engagement to ensure the proposed work is aligned with community needs is encouraged. Team bio-sketches are not counted towards page limits.

Bio-sketches: All applicants and collaborators should submit NIH biographical sketches (5-page limit) with personal statements adapted to describe defined roles on the project. Use the NIH biographical sketch form approved for use on/after January 25, 2022. The form, instructions, and a sample biographical sketches are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

REVIEW PROCEDURES: Applications will be reviewed by faculty at UAB and partner countries with appropriate expertise in global health. The evaluation will follow a scale 1-9 (similar to NIH) to assess Significance and Innovation (including targets for future funding), Approach, Impact, Preliminary or Related Findings (including resources and feasibility), Investigators and Project Team (including involvement of trainees and junior Investigators as well as community stakeholders) and Overall Impact.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: Final award decisions shall be made by MHIGH leadership. It is anticipated that two to five awards (\$5000-\$20,000 each) totaling \$50,000 will be awarded for this cycle based on scientific merit and promise. Applicants should request only the budget that is reasonably needed to accomplish the stated goals.

AWARD DETAILS: Funding will be awarded from the MHIGH Administrative Office. All questions regarding the awarding of funding should be directed to the contact listed in the notice of award.

- Maximum award is \$20,000. Indirect costs are generally not covered but line items (e.g. IRB, communication, etc.) essential for the success of the project, should be included in the budget. Awards are one to two years in length. One no-cost extension may be requested at the end of the second-year budget period only.
- All costs must conform to the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) and applicable U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB circulars for necessity and reasonability, allocability, conformance and consistency, as well as allowability. Please follow the link below to section 7.2 cost principles section of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).
- Prior to the receipt of funding for projects involving human subjects, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval from all participating sites and human subjects training certification for all key personnel will be required. Approvals are not required for application submission. For more information about human subjects approval, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/> and <http://www.uab.edu/research/administration/offices/irb/Pages/Home.aspx>

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS: Awardees will be required to submit periodic progress reports and will receive email notification with guidance. Awardees will be expected to present the details of their study at an MHIGH activity, to be announced in the coming year. This will provide an opportunity to identify additional synergies within UAB and MHIGH, explore other means of support, and gather recommendations to enhance the project.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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