

**American Indian/Alaska Native  
Clinical and Translational Research Program**  
(<http://www.montana.edu/aian/>)

## **EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR CAREER AWARDS**

### **Request for Applications**

**Submission Deadline 2/28/2019**

The American Indian/Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Program requests applications for selection as an AI/AN CTRP Mentored Research Scholar. The program will support early stage investigators with protected time and funding to develop NIH competitive projects. The goal of the program is to support promising early stage investigators as they establish independent research careers.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree (e.g. PhD, MD, DO) and be current faculty members or faculty candidates with a clear intent to pursue academic careers in areas of health disparities research. Faculty candidates must provide a letter from the institutional hiring authority confirming forthcoming faculty status. Investigators from all CTRP partner and non-partner institutions are eligible.

Candidates with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are eligible. Former PDs/PIs on NIH research project (R01), program project (P01), center grants, FIRST Awards (R29), sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants, other career development awards (K awards), or the equivalent are not eligible. Former principal investigators of an NIH Small Grant (R03 or R15), Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21), Dissertation Award (R36), or SBIR/STTR (R41, R42, R43, R44) remain eligible.

#### **SUPPORT**

The program supports 50%-75% of the Scholar's salary and research related expenses including travel, up to a maximum total grant contribution of \$110,000 per year.

Support is provided for two years. By the end of the second year of support, it is anticipated that the Scholar will have submitted at least one major grant application to the NIH or the appropriate agency.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with AI/AN communities is prerequisite. Applications without evidence of engagement will not be reviewed. Research must be of benefit to AI/AN people and applicants must indicate whether the research area is a tribally-identified priority. Applications also must include letters from named community partners, plans to disseminate study findings to the community, community collaboration in project development, mechanisms for active engagement and oversight by community members.

## SELECTION PROCESS

There is a competitive selection process composed of two rounds. Applications will first be reviewed by the CTRP Professional Development and Community Engagement Core members. The CTRP Steering Committee then will evaluate and prioritize candidates. Candidates who are selected to continue to the second round will be invited to interview with PD and CEO Core members, and the CTRP Directors. Final selections will be made by the CTRP Directors.

## APPLICATION and FORMAT

Use [PHS398 forms and instructions](#) where applicable (sections 1-5, and 10). Please use Arial font no smaller than 11 pt, and margins no less than 0.5 inches. The format follows a standard R21 with one page for Specific Aims and six pages for the Significance, Innovation and Research Approach. An additional requirement is a Career Development Plan that is limited to a maximum of two pages. Applications must include the following:

1. **Face page**
2. **NIH Biosketch**
3. **NIH Biosketch(s) of proposed mentor(s)**
4. **Project Summary** 30 line limit
5. **Proposed performance site(s)**
6. **Name(s) and role(s)** of the mentor(s) that will guide research training
7. **Research proposal** Specific Aims (one page), Significance, Innovation and Research Approach (six pages). The Research Approach must include a description of how the project addresses tribal health and research priorities, plans for community engagement and collaboration, methods of dissemination of research findings and data protection. Note that IRB approvals must be in place by the time of the award.
8. **Career Development Plan** Present a systematic plan that a) shows a logical progression from the applicant's prior research and training experiences to the training and research experiences proposed for the mentored phase of the award, and subsequently to independent investigator status and b) justifies the need for further mentored career development to become an independent research investigator (two page limit).
9. **Support letters** Support letters in the application must include the following:
  1. A letter of support from the applicant's mentor(s) that includes comments on the applicant's career potential.
  2. A letter from the applicant's Department Head/Director indicating a commitment to providing 50-75% protected research time for the two years of this award (including release from clinical duties). The letter also should include comments on the applicant's career potential.
10. **Budget** Allowable cost categories include applicant salary and fringe, research related costs and relevant travel. Stipend support for graduate students or postdoctoral fellows is not allowed. The indirect cost rate is capped 10%. Include a budget justification in this section.

## SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2019, 5:00 pm, applicant's local time. All documents should be compiled in the above order and submitted as a single PDF file. Applications that do not conform to the format, content and page limit requirements will not be considered for further review.

To upload the application, go to <https://aian-applications.health.umt.edu/public/login> and follow link for ESI Career Award. The site will be open for submissions February 1, 2019.

Letters of support should be submitted separate from the application. Once an application is initiated on the submission site, mentors and department heads will receive email notice that contains letter of support submission instructions.

## TIMELINE

**March 30, 2019** - Nominees invited for interviews

**April 15, 2019** - Nominees and mentors notified of award

**August 1, 2019** - Salary support begins

## FAQ

If I am already a CTRP funded investigator can I apply to this mechanism?

Yes

Can I commit less than 50% effort with 50% protected time?

No, the minimum investigator and departmental commitment is 50% and the maximum is 75%.

Are investigators outside of the CTRP institutions eligible to apply?

Yes, but principal investigators must be located in Montana or Alaska, and projects must be conducted in either or both states. Collaborators or secondary mentors may be located out of state.

How many Scholars will the CTRP fund?

The number will depend on the suitability of candidates and availability of funds.

Can graduate students and postdoctoral stipends be paid from these funds?

No, stipends are not allowable costs.

Does the program support travel expenses?

Yes. Relevant travel for the PI can be incorporated into the project budget.

Are late applications accepted?

No. Applications are due February 28, 2019 by 5:00 pm, applicant's local time.

Is a Community Engagement component required?

Yes. Applications without documentation of community engagement will not be reviewed.

How do I get help with Community Engagement?

Please contact the Director of the Community Engagement and Outreach Core, Dr. Jordan Lewis ([jplewis@alaska.edu](mailto:jplewis@alaska.edu))

What other resources are available?

The CTRP and collaborating Centers have multiple resources available to Scholars and include core facilities, community engagement support, professional development opportunities and mentoring team support. Please contact Michele Hardy ([michele.hardy@montana.edu](mailto:michele.hardy@montana.edu)) or Daniella McGuire ([daniella.mcguire@montana.edu](mailto:daniella.mcguire@montana.edu)) for more information.

Are there other funding opportunities from the CTRP?

Yes, please see the [AI/AN CTRP website](#) for more information

Who should I contact with questions?

Please contact Michele Hardy ([michele.hardy@montana.edu](mailto:michele.hardy@montana.edu)) or Daniella McGuire ([daniella.mcguire@montana.edu](mailto:daniella.mcguire@montana.edu)) with questions about the program or the process.