**Funding Opportunity**

**Rural Health and Safety Collaboratory Award**

**Letter of Intent Deadline: January 14, 2019**

**Full Proposal Deadline: February 25, 2019**

**Introduction and Background**

The Rural Health and Safety Committee and the Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy (IIPHRP) in the College of Public Health (CPH) is inviting applications from University of Iowa (UI) faculty who are interested in **establishing or expanding a team for addressing health and safety concerns among rural populations**.

A Collaboratory is a creative group process designed to solve complex problems that brings the opportunity for new organizational networks to form. A “collaboratory” methodology expands the scope, scale, and impact of public health research. This award provides an opportunity to gather collaborators from different backgrounds and disciplines around a topic to develop an innovative research proposal. This initiative is intended to stimulate an aspirational research proposal on a public health topic that leverages existing strengths at the CPH, while fostering new collaborations within and outside the University of Iowa.

A successful collaboratory will lead to a sustainable research initiative such as a large research, service or Center grant proposal that bolsters and builds upon areas of research closely linked to the CPH’s three areas of excellence—rural health, comparative effectiveness research, and community engagement.

**Award Highlights**

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| **Title** | Rural Health and Safety Collaboratory |
| **Project Period** | April 1, 2019 through March 30, 2020 |
| **Anticipated Funding** | Up to $75,000 for one collaboratory |
| **Eligible Applicants** | This award is intended for newly established or existing collaborative teams that desire to critically explore a rural public health challenge. The team lead must have a primary faculty appointment in the UI College of Public Health. All faculty with a primary appointment in the CPH are invited to apply. Junior faculty are highly encouraged to apply. |
| **Letter of Intent Due Date** | Submit the Letter of Intent (LOI ) via email, by **5:00 pm on January 14, 2019** to [Vickie-miene@uiowa.edu](mailto:Vickie-miene@uiowa.edu) |
| **Application Due Date** | 5:00 pm, February 25, 2019 |
| **Anticipated Outcome** | To develop an aspirational, large scale, research, training, or Center grant proposal that builds upon existing UI and CPH strengths. |
| **Technical Assistance** | For questions about this funding opportunity contact Vickie Miene, Interim Director, IIPHRP [Vickie-Miene@uiowa.edu](mailto:Vickie-Miene@uiowa.edu) (319)-384-1511 |

**Application Process**

Participation in the CPH Collaboratory occurs through a competitive application process. The process includes completion of a **Letter of Intent** and completion of an **application. Application guidelines** can be found at the end of this announcement. Primary consideration will be given to applicants with public health projects that are aspirational, innovative, multidisciplinary, and will likely lead to a center grant, program project, multi-site R01, training grant, foundation or other external large grant funding.

**Letter of Intent**

A one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on January 14, 2019. This will provide information regarding the likely number of proposals and provide opportunities to link faculty with similar interests during the proposal preparation phase. The LOI should be addressed to Vickie Miene and emailed to [vickie-miene@uiowa.edu](mailto:vickie-miene@uiowa.edu) by **5:00pm on January 14, 2019**. The LOI should include the following:

* Provide name and contact information (email and phone number) for the team lead. This person will be the identified primary contact for all communications regarding the application process.
* Provide name of CPH faculty member
* Identify the rural health and safety topic to be addressed
* Provide title/name of proposed collaboratory
* Provide 1-3 Aims for the proposed collaboratory
* List names and corresponding college of additional UI team members
* List names and organization or affiliation of team members external to the UI

**Award Information**

The full proposal for this RFA should be completed and submitted via email by **5:00pm on February 25, 2019**. You will receive a confirmation email indicating that your proposal has been received. Questions about the application process can be directed to Vickie Miene, Interim Director of the IIPHRP through email at vickie-miene@uiowa.edu or by phone at (319) 384-1511.

Notification of awardees will begin on March 20, 2019 with a program start date of April 1, 2019. The project period will be 12 months, from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

Timeline Overview

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| --- | --- |
| RFA disseminated | December 6, 2018 |
| Letter of Intent due | January 14, 2019 |
| Full Proposal due | February 25, 2019 |
| Notification of awards to begin | March 20, 2019 |
| Project start date | April 1, 2019 |
| Project end date | March 31, 2020 |

**Eligibility:**

Newly forming teams with an idea to **pursue a critical rural public health issue** are encouraged to apply. **The team lead must have a primary appointment in the UI CPH**. All Faculty with a primary appointment in the CPH are invited to apply. Junior faculty are highly encouraged to apply. In addition, teams are encouraged to:

* + Include three or more faculty of varied backgrounds working together from at least 2 departments. **Faculty from multiple colleges are highly encouraged.**
  + Include local, regional, or national community partners
  + Concentrate on innovative population health ideas which address a **critical rural health and safety challenge.**
* Include measureable project planning milestones that will assure forward progress during the collaboratory process.

**Infrastructure**

The award recipients will utilize infrastructure and support provided by the College through the IIPHRP. The IIPHRP will assist with administrative support such as identifying future funders, providing meeting space, developing communications and project management support. Staff of the Institute will meet with the awardee to collaboratively determine how to best assist in supporting the collaboratory team. The team will have access to collaborative space on the 5th floor of the UI College of Public Health Building.

**Reporting**

Expense reporting will be completed monthly using the CPH accounting processes. Programmatic reporting will be completed quarterly to report project milestones.

**Final product**

The final product of the collaboratory is an aspirational, externally funded research, training, or Center grant proposal.

**Application Guide**

The outline below provides guidance to complete an application for the CPH Collaboratory. Applications can be submitted as a PDF document. Applications must include the information in parts 1-6 below:

1. ***Title Page:*** Acover page that lists the team lead, team members, degrees, position titles, title of the collaboratory, departmental addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.
2. ***Executive Summary-Abstract:*** A one page, single spaced, abstract should include an overview of the project including the title of the collaboratory, names of team members, specific aims, methods, and anticipated outcomes.
3. ***Research Proposal Narrative:*** This portion of the full proposal is limited to a *maximum* of six single-spaced pages (not including citations). New Times Roman 11 or larger font size should be used. The proposal should include the following:
   1. Provide a brief rationale for the importance of the chosen collaboratory
   2. Define the overarching aims or goals of the collaboratory. Provide at least one specific aim along with a brief rationale. What is the problem you want to address?
   3. Collaboration & Synergy: Provide a list of collaborators along with corresponding departments and organizations who will be part of the proposed collaboratory. Describe the unique contribution that team members will bring to the collaboratory. Summarize prior relevant work conducted by team members. Describe why the team is uniquely qualified and suited to participate in the collaboratory?
   4. Define the significance of the collaboratory and how it will expand research in the chosen area.
   5. Describe in detail the approach and method by specifically defining:
      * The process that will be utilized to meet your goals. Be specific about the steps you will take in the planning process.
      * How will the team work together? What are your planned collaborative milestones?
      * The challenges that you anticipate as you implement the collaboratory.
      * The plans for stakeholder engagement in the planning process.
      * Include a timeline with collaboratory milestones.
      * Describe **expected outcomes*.*** If successful, what impact will the collaboratory have? What will have changed or been made possible because of this collaboratory opportunity?
4. ***Budget with Justification:***Selected *a*pplicants should plan for a start date of April 1, 2019. The budget section should outline expenditures for the project (e.g., supplies, expenses for meetings, anticipated travel, etc.). Funds may not be used for equipment. Funds may be used for research staff and graduate research assistant salaries, professional grant writing support, consultants, visiting scholars, convening partner meetings, visits to funding agencies, and other justified expenses. Faculty salaries up to 5% FTE will be considered depending on the scope of the project. Please remember that the total budget is not to exceed $75,000. *Unspent funds will not be allowed to carry over past the 12-month project period.* Investigators are strongly urged to plan appropriately.
5. ***Biosketch:*** Use the new NIH or NSF format and submit a Biosketch for each collaborator.
6. ***Letters of Support should be*** *submitted as appropriate from collaborative partners and others to demonstrate your capacity to accomplish the planned goals*.

**Review Criteria:**

Proposals will undergo a formal review process by a selected team of reviewers with outside expert evaluators as necessary and appropriate. Funding preference will be given to innovative proposals that have promise to lead to additional, large scale, external funding opportunities.

*Proposals will be evaluated on:*

* Impact of purposed collaborations and synergy (Does the purposed collaboratory have potential to generate novel synergies?)
* Scientific merit/quality, including adequacy of approach, originality and innovativeness of the proposal
* Qualifications of the key personnel and their ability to complete the project as proposed
* Degree to which the project addresses an issue of significant importance in rural public health
* The potential to result in an aspirational, innovative, multidisciplinary, research proposal that will likely to lead to R01, foundation or other external large grant funding.