Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):
CHIP Grant Development Summer Stipends for Junior Faculty FY16

A. KEY DATES

- August 11, 2015: FOA posted; earliest submission date
- Friday, October 2, 2015: Letters of Intent (required) due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, October 9, 2015: Applicants notified of LOI approval decision
- Friday, November 6, 2015: CHIP Affiliate Application due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, November 20, 2015: Full Proposals due by 11:59 PM EST
- January 2016: Applicants notified of award decision
- Summer 2016: Award period
- September 1, 2016: Deadline for resulting external grant submission

B. PURPOSE

UConn’s Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) offers summer stipends to junior faculty at the Storrs or regional campuses who are CHIP affiliates, to assist them with writing successful grant applications in health behavior and health behavior change.

While the external grant proposal is being prepared, CHIP will mentor the grant writer and will also send the proposal, before it is submitted to the funder, for external review by major experts in the field. CHIP may also send the proposal to program officials at NIH (if applicable) for feedback. All feedback can be incorporated into the investigator’s final external grant proposal.

C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Two Summer Stipends of $2,500 each (including salary and fringe) are available for award in this competition.
- The Summer Stipend will be paid to you when the grant proposal is submitted to an external funding agency.
- Any external grant proposal that is written with support from a Summer Stipend must be submitted through CHIP.
- Those selected for the CHIP Grant Development Stipend cannot do summer teaching in 2016, during the period of the stipend.

D. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. This seed grant opportunity targets faculty who have never been awarded a large external grant. Faculty who have previously been awarded an external grant of more than $100,000 (in total costs) per year are not eligible.
2. The investigator must have an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, PharmD), have an eligible faculty appointment (see below) at UConn Storrs or regional campuses (not UConn Health), and must be eligible to submit external grants through UConn.

3. Eligible faculty appointments are: tenured or tenure-track faculty; in-residence research faculty; clinical faculty; other research faculty; and research scientists/scholars.

4. Ineligible faculty appointments are: post-doctoral fellows; lecturers; research assistants and research associates; visiting titles; extension titles; and adjunct faculty.

5. Graduate students are not eligible for this opportunity.

6. The applicant is required to be an approved CHIP Faculty/Researcher Affiliate, or submit application to become a CHIP Faculty/Researcher Affiliate by 11:59pm EST on Friday, November 6, 2015. The affiliate application materials can be found at: [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-officeaffiliate-application/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-officeaffiliate-application/). Please allow at least two weeks for approval.

7. The proposed research must focus on health behavior and be consistent with CHIP’s mission, which can be found at [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/). However, it does not have to involve intervention development, implementation, or evaluation. A wide range of research is permitted, including but not limited to, natural history studies, observational studies, qualitative research, correlational studies, and others.

8. Awardees are expected to commit in good faith to submit an external grant proposal written with support from the Summer Stipend by September 1, 2016.

9. If the investigator has a CHIP seed grant from a previous fiscal year that is not one of the dual-PI seed grants, s/he must close out the award from that CHIP seed grant prior to the start of the award period for the new grant.

E. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Stage 1: Letter of Intent

1. All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) form by 11:59pm EST on Friday, October 2, 2015.

2. The online LOI form can be found here.

3. LOIs will be reviewed by CHIP to determine the eligibility of the investigator and proposed research.

4. Applicants must receive written approval of their LOIs prior to submitting a full proposal.

Stage 2: Full Proposal

1. Full proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm EST on Friday, November 20, 2015.

2. Full proposals should be submitted electronically using the Seed Grant Application Form, which is available beginning in August 2015 at the following link: [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/forms/chip-seed-grant-application-fy16/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/forms/chip-seed-grant-application-fy16/).

3. The seed grant application form requires the following information, embedded in the sections described below:

   a. Applications for the Summer Stipend should describe the focus of the grant proposal that will be written, how it will contribute to the literature, the funding agency (e.g., NIDDK, NIMH, CDC, Gates Foundation), the funding mechanism (e.g., R21, R03, K01), and the
anticipated date of submission of the external grant application (must be no later than September 1, 2016).

b. Applications should also specify, in some detail, the work that will be done on the grant proposal during the period covered by the CHIP stipend. Evidence that the funding agency is interested in the proposed study is helpful.

c. The Seed Grant Application form mirrors those used by the NIH and all Public Health Services agencies, and will require, at minimum:
   i. Research Plan (maximum 5 single-spaced pages)
      1. Specific Aims (1 page)
      2. Research Strategy (maximum 4 pages)
         a. Significance.
         b. Innovation.
         c. Approach.
   ii. References.
   iii. **Brief** Human Subjects section, if applicable (i.e., Protection of Human Subjects, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table, Inclusion of Children).

Research Plans should **not exceed 5 single-spaced pages**, with one page for the Specific Aims and up to 4 pages for the Research Strategy. This 5-page limit does **not** include other required sections such as the References List, Human Subject section (if applicable), and Appendices (kept to a minimum). Detailed instructions will be provided in the full seed grant application form.

d. Any letters of support from the proposed research performance site(s) and collaborating faculty can be attached and should indicate appropriate linkage and support for conducting the proposed study at the selected location(s).

4. In fairness to all applicants, late applications and applications that do not include all required components will not be accepted.

5. Proposals are **not** required to be routed through CHIP or Sponsored Program Services (SPS).

6. Investigators will be notified via email whether or not their proposal has been awarded funding.

**F. REVIEW CRITERIA**

Priority for funding will be based on the following review criteria, in no particular order:
• Scientific merit of the research plan.
• Likelihood that the proposed project will elicit external funding.
• Importance of the research question.
• Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot data.
• Composition of the research team that will be participating in the proposed project for which external funding is being sought (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).
• Relevance to the mission of CHIP.
• Extent to which the proposed project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

G. CONTACT
For questions not addressed in this FOA or on the Seed Grants overview webpage at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/, please contact seedgrants@chip.uconn.edu.