Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):
CHIP-Neag School of Education Dual-PI Seed Grants
for Collaborative Research in School and Child Health FY16
Issued September 10, 2015

A. KEY DATES

- September 10, 2015  FOA posted; earliest submission date
- Thursday, November 12, 2015  Networking Event
- Friday, February 5, 2016  Letters of Intent (required) due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, February 19, 2016  Applicants notified of LOI approval decision
- Friday, March 25, 2016  CHIP/CSCH Affiliate Application due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, April 8, 2016  Full proposals due by 11:59 PM EST
- June 2016  Applicants notified of award decision
- Sep. 1, 2016 – August 31, 2018  Award period
- February 28, 2019  Deadline for resulting dual-PI external grant submission

B. PURPOSE

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), CHIP’s Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH), and the Neag School of Education invite proposals for new research initiatives focused on school and child health, undertaken jointly by two investigators: one with a faculty appointment in the Neag School of Education, and one with a faculty appointment in a department outside of Neag at the Storrs or regional campuses. At least one of the investigators must be a CHIP affiliate and one must be a CSCH affiliate by the time the final proposal is submitted. The ultimate goal of these CHIP-Neag School of Education Dual-PI Seed Grants is to support multidisciplinary pilot research that will lead to strong dual-PI external grant applications aligned with the mission of the CSCH, and to be submitted through CHIP and the Neag School of Education.

C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Two awards of $15,000 each are available for this seed grant competition. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP and the Neag School of Education.

Seed grant funds may only be used for direct costs of carrying out approved projects, such as:
a. Personnel who are essential for conducting the research project, such as graduate research assistants and student labor. Individuals who are not on the regular state payroll (i.e., consultants and other off-campus assistance) may be hired to perform special research-related tasks as needed.
b. Resources that require fee-for-services within UConn.
c. Participant incentives for recruitment or study participation.
d. Travel that is necessary to conduct the research, NOT travel to present the results of the research, or travel to explore future funding opportunities.
e. Equipment necessary for conducting the research (“equipment” is defined as an article of tangible, nonexpendable, personal property that costs $5,000 or more).
f. Project supplies, including drugs and services.
g. Other specifically authorized expenses as may be essential for carrying out the project.

Seed grant funds may not be used for the following:

a. Principal Investigator’s, Co-Investigator’s, or any faculty member’s salary.
b. Living expenses.
c. Service/maintenance contracts on equipment.
d. Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations.
e. Institutional memberships in professional organizations.
f. Travel to professional meetings to present the results of the research, or any conference attendance.
g. Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries.
h. Costs associated with the publication of results of the research, such as purchase of reprints. Page charges are allowable costs.
i. Investigator training costs, including tuition.

D. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. Proposals must be novel and must take an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the study of school and child health. Both PIs in the dual-PI team are expected to make appropriate and significant contributions to the proposed research, and to perform new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration and seed grant funding.

2. Two PIs are required and must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a. The “Education PI” must have an eligible faculty appointment in the Neag School of Education.
b. The “Non-Education PI” must have an eligible faculty appointment in a UConn department outside of the Neag School of Education that is located at Storrs or one of the regional campuses (not UConn Health), and s/he must be eligible to submit grants through CHIP or the Neag School of Education.
c. At least one of the two PIs is required to be an approved CHIP affiliate, and at least one of the two PIs must be an approved CSCH affiliate. This CHIP/CSCH affiliation is required by the time the final proposal is submitted. The CHIP Affiliate application form and instructions are available at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/affiliate-application/. The CHIP Affiliate application can also be used to apply to become a CSCH affiliate. Please allow at least two weeks for approval.
d. Eligible faculty appointments are tenured or tenure-track faculty, in-residence research faculty, clinical faculty, other research faculty, research scientists/scholars, and adjunct faculty. Eligible faculty are not restricted to junior faculty.

e. Ineligible faculty appointments are post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants and research associates, visiting titles, and extension titles.

f. Graduate students are not eligible.

g. Seed grant proposals must be predominantly the work of the PIs and for the benefit of the PIs’ research programs. Proposals written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs’ names are not allowed.

3. Only two PIs are allowed on Dual-PI seed grants. A third member may serve as a Co-I or significant contributor but not as a PI.

4. The proposed research must be consistent with the research missions of CHIP, CSCH, and the Neag School of Education:

a. “CHIP will undertake research to create new scientific knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and methodological advances in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. This work will focus on understanding the dynamics of health behavior and related systems, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.”

b. “The mission of the Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH) is to facilitate innovative research in school and child health. CSCH serves as a central resource to university and external partners engaged in research efforts that inform healthy, safe, supporting, and engaging environments for all children.”

c. “Research productivity and scholarly influence are a central foundation for the Neag School of Education. The Neag School’s academic plan acknowledges that to engage in innovative education reform with substantial impact on students and the systems surrounding them requires coordinated work over time to simultaneously implement change, study its effectiveness, and share it widely in ways that have lasting impact. These goals are accomplished through deepening cross-disciplinary collaborations among stakeholders across multiple fields to establish the policies, funding streams, and evidence-based practices that will promote achievement of state and national education goals.”

5. Eligible topics of study must address at least one of the 10 components in a coordinated school health model (i.e. community involvement; counseling, psychological and social services; employee wellness; family engagement; health education; health services; nutrition environment and services; physical education and physical activity; physical environment; social and emotional climate). For more information, see http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm. Examples of eligible topics of study include, but are not limited to:

- What is the relationship between community involvement in healthy behaviors (e.g. bicycling, walking, good nutrition) and educational performance of children?
- What is the relationship between social determinants of health, education, and physical exercise?
- How does family engagement relate to emotional well-being and educational performance of children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences?
- What is the relationship between teachers’ healthy behaviors in nutrition and social engagement, and teachers’ implementation of evidence-based classroom practices?
- What is the relationship between disparities in health care delivery and educational performance for those engaged in routine physical activity?

6. The PIs must commit in good faith to use the seed grant funds to obtain pilot data to support an external grant proposal that will be submitted by both PIs through either CHIP or the Neag School of Education by February 28, 2019.

7. If either PI already has a dual-PI seed grant from a previous fiscal year (e.g. CHIP-CT Children’s seed grant), s/he must close out that award prior to the start of the award period for the 2016 CHIP-Neag School of Education seed grant.

8. Each PI can only have one dual-PI submission under review at a time. If the proposal does not receive funding, the PI may apply to the next dual-PI seed grant competition.

E. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Note: CHIP staff will answer questions about the seed grant application (including the budget), but neither CHIP nor Neag School of Education staff will assist applicants with development of the actual budget or budget justification, or with writing the seed grant LOI or proposal.

Stage 1: Letter of Intent

1. All applicants must submit an online Letter of Intent (LOI) form, available at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/, by the above specified due date/time. Each dual-PI team should submit only one LOI. A budget is not required at the time of LOI submission. LOIs do not require routing through grants offices.

2. LOIs will be reviewed by relevant CHIP and Neag School of Education staff to determine the eligibility of the proposed research and applicant team.

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

Stage 2: Full Proposal

1. Full proposals must be submitted online at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/ by the above specified due date/time. The application form is modeled after a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R21 grant proposal and will require, at a minimum, an abstract, roles and functions of project personnel, detailed budget and budget justification, biosketches for both PIs, a research plan, references, a brief human subjects section, and information on other support for the project. Each dual-PI team should submit only one full proposal, with separate budgets for the Education PI and the Non-Education PI. Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted, so please plan accordingly and allow plenty of time to prepare your proposal.

2. Full proposals will undergo a rigorous review process based on the National Institutes of Health grant review process, with reviewers from CHIP and the Neag School of Education. One or more external reviewers may be consulted as well. Individuals who are Senior/Key Personnel or Other Significant Contributors on a seed grant proposal will be excluded from participation in the review process.
3. Each dual-PI team 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.
- 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.
- Relevance of the study to the research missions of CHIP, CSCH, and the Neag School of Education.
- Importance of the research question to external funders.
- Feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent dual-PI proposal to external funders no later than February 28, 2019.
- Appropriate and significant scientific contributions by each of the two PIs to complete the aims of the study.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to teams with a greater number of disciplines represented).

G. Awardee Requirements
If awarded, the PIs are not required to route their proposal through Sponsored Programs Services (SPS).

The awarded PIs are responsible for obtaining all required approvals for the research. Please visit [http://research.uconn.edu/irb/](http://research.uconn.edu/irb/) for more information on IRB approval for research conducted at the UConn-Storrs Campus, the five regional campuses, the School of Law and the School of Social Work. For more information on IRB approval for research conducted at UConn Health, please visit [http://hspp.chc.edu/irb/index.html](http://hspp.chc.edu/irb/index.html).

Awardees will be required to submit progress reports every 6 months and a final report at the conclusion of the project or award period. Changes to the project’s objectives, PIs, and budget will require prior approval from relevant CHIP and Neag School of Education staff.

Detailed awardee instructions/requirements will be distributed to seed grant winners when they are notified of the award decisions. All awardee requirements described above are subject to change in accordance with updated institutional procedures (e.g., routing requirements).

H. CONTACT
For questions not addressed in this FOA or at [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/), please contact CHIP’s Program Coordinator, Megan Zhou, at megan.zhou@chip.uconn.edu.