



CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL
SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

Call for Proposals

Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) – Case Western Reserve University

Overview: The Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) CTS Research Program seeks letters of intent for 2–3-year Pilot Projects. The specific goal of the CTS Research Program is to support projects which promote health equity and reduce health disparities in chronic illness through the innovative use of technology. We are interested in proposals which are aligned with the overall goals of the collaborative including understanding health equity in addition to overcoming barriers to recruitment of underrepresented groups in clinical research, integration of community and stakeholder partners throughout the research process, and implementation of novel research programs in clinical and community settings in a manner that promotes health equity.

The technology itself needs not be innovative – it is the application of technology to populations. Examples of innovative uses of technology to improve health outcomes while ensuring access to new biomedical science and technology. That may include studies that utilize technological tools to promote self-monitoring of chronic illnesses (e.g., heart failure, asthma, HIV, diabetes), and technology-based tools to support care of patients at home. The CTS Research Program will prioritize projects involving special populations and underrepresented minorities, specifically African Americans, Hispanics, LGBT+ population, seniors older than 75, persons with disabilities or rural residents.

Eligibility and Criteria for Review: The PI is required to be a CWRU, full-time faculty member (or the equivalent) from CWRU, the Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, University Hospitals, or Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and eligible to be a PI for a NIH grant. Multiple PI applications are highly encouraged. Co-Is may include community health leaders. The research team must have representation from at least two CTSC affiliate sites.

Submission Process: Investigators interested in submitting applications to the CTS Program Pilot Program must first submit a 1-2 page Letter of Intent (LOI) to the CTS Scientific Review Committee (SRC) **by 11:59 PM on September 15, 2023**. Investigators submitting a proposal consistent with the goals of the CTS Program Pilot Program will be invited to submit a full application. The LOI is a short summary of the proposal (1-2 pages maximum) that must include the following:

- Title and Project site(s)
- Names/affiliations of PI, Co-Investigators and collaborators
- Question/Hypothesis of the study and a brief overview of the study
- How the award funds would be utilized and distributed.
- Innovation/Translation
- Feasibility
- Project Milestones

In addition, the CTS Program will review applications for the following aspects:

- How well is your project aligned with the overall goals of the CWRU CTSC?
- What is innovative about the use of technology for care of patients with chronic illness?

(e.g., innovative technology, or application to a novel patient population or condition, or novel approach to use of technology which complements standard of care).

- How will you engage diverse and underrepresented populations in the conduct of research and implementation of the study results?
- What is the general approach for implementation and anticipated outcomes of your project?
- How will relevant stakeholders be engaged in the project? (e.g., community groups, providers, patient-partners)?
- What is the composition and qualification of team members who will lead the project?
- How will the results of the project be disseminated?
- What are future plans for sustaining the project or advancing the project through additional research?

Budget Considerations: CWRU will serve as the fiscal entity through which CTSC funds will be distributed and administered. The amount of the pilot award will be dependent on the scope and type of the project. Awards may involve the incorporation of novel methodologies, technology or programming for translational studies and use of CTSC resources. Budget must be well justified. Awardees are encouraged to supplement awards with additional institutional, departmental, or private funds. Funds may be allocated between \$125,000-\$175,000 per year depending on the duration of the project. A specific budget justification should be detailed. Although the project can span up to 3 years, investigators should include the details justifying why several years are required for the success of the project. A [budget page](#) and list of allowable expenses can be found on the [CTSC website](#).

Letters of intent should be no more than two pages long and should be submitted to the CTS Program via InfoReady **by 11:59 PM on September 15, 2023**. Those which meet the basic criteria described above will be selected for submission of full applications which will follow an NIH R21 format (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r21.htm>), including a one-page specific aims page and a research strategy section of no more than 6 pages.

Contact Nora Brown with questions: brownn2@ccf.org