



Texas Center for AIDS Research Pilot Grant Application Instructions

Faculty (or faculty equivalent) with primary appointments at the three Texas CFAR institutions (Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, and UTHealth Houston including MD Anderson) and who are early-stage investigators (defined here: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>); or investigators who have never been awarded an R01 or equivalent grant as principal investigator in any field (new investigators); or established investigators who have had R01 or equivalent funding in fields other than HIV (new to HIV/AIDS research), are eligible to apply.

Projects are one year in duration. Clinical trials are not allowed. Carefully review the NIH definition of a clinical trial (see: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/definition>) to determine if your proposal includes a clinical trial. Projects involving foreign sites are not allowed unless they are approved by the NIH. Indirect costs are not allowed. Sub-contracts to institutions that are not one of the three Texas CFAR institutions may be allowed with strong justification but are discouraged. IRB or IACUC approval, if applicable, may be pending at the time of submission but must be obtained before funds can be released.

Applications can be submitted here (<https://redcap.link/953wibhq>) and must include:

- a) Cover letter that states Principal Investigator(s), Institutes of Investigators, Project Title, requested budget
- b) Project Summary/Abstract (30 lines of text limit) on separate page
- c) For Early-Stage Investigators, indicate on Project Summary/Abstract page whether you have a research mentor or would like the Texas CFAR to assist in matching you with an appropriate mentor
- d) Lay language summary (30 lines of text limit) on a separate page
- e) NIH Biosketch for all key personnel
- f) Facilities & Other Resources; Equipment
- g) Budget and Budget Justification. Projects are limited to one year. Budgets are limited to \$50,000. Indirect costs are not allowed. Investigator effort is limited to 20% FTE for 1 year. With exceptional justification a proposal that involves at least 2 of the 3 Texas CFAR institutions (BCM, Texas Biomed, and UTHealth Houston including MD Anderson) in a collaboration may propose a budget up to \$100,000.
- h) Research Plan
 - a) Specific Aims (1-page limit)
 - b) Research Strategy (3-page limit; include sections for Significance/Innovation, Approach, and Use of Texas CFAR Cores)
 - c) Brief statement of plans to transition Pilot Project to NIH-funded project (30 lines of text limit)
 - d) References cited
- i) Human Subjects, if applicable. IRB approval may be pending at the time of submission. Include:
 - a) Description of human subjects' involvement
 - b) Risks to human subjects
 - c) Adequacy of protection against risks
 - d) Potential benefits
 - e) Importance of knowledge to be gained
- j) Vertebrate Animals, if applicable. IACUC approval may be pending at the time of submission. Include:
 - a) Description of animals
 - b) Justification for the use of animals
 - c) Interventions to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury
 - d) Euthanasia method.
- k) Letters of Support, if applicable. Letters of Support from CFAR Cores that are essential for the project