EXTENDED DEADLINE!!

The Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy

Seed Grant: 2016

The Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy has extended the deadline for seed grant proposals for this upcoming year. The goal of the Seed Grant Program is to encourage innovative, evidence-based research projects that address health literacy and its close correlate, health communication. It is anticipated that up to $20,000 will be awarded. Priority will be given to research projects that a) include Center affiliate faculty as co-investigators (please see list of current affiliate faculty on the Center’s web site); b) significantly involve graduate students as investigators or research assistants; and c) have the potential to garner external research support in the future.

Health literacy is the ability to find, understand and use health information in order to make healthy decisions and affect health outcomes. Health literacy is influenced by many factors, including: access to health care, provider-patient communication, use of information or technology by hospitals, and health media messages and campaigns. Examples of seed grant topics include: an exploration of attitudes, knowledge and/or behaviors that impact health literacy levels; assessment of health provider training program on health literacy; study of media messages and their affects health literacy; evaluation of technology to improve health literacy; or survey on disparities in health literacy levels.

Eligibility Criteria:

• All Principal Investigators on the application must be current, employed tenure-track/tenured faculty or registered graduate student at the University of Maryland. The PI is ultimately responsible for the fiscal, scientific, and administrative management of this award.

• There can be more than one Principal Investigator on one application, and graduate students at the University of Maryland are eligible to be PIs. Only one grant application per PI can be submitted, and no subcontracts will be awarded. A researcher or student may be on more than one application as a consultant or assistant, but only one submission per PI.

• Priority will be given to proposals that include Affiliate Faculty of the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as Principal Investigator or Co-investigator. Please see the Center website for a current listing of Affiliate Faculty members: www.healthliteracy.umd.edu/affiliate-faculty/

• All seed grant proposals that are approved for funding and involve the use of human subjects must obtain appropriate human subjects approvals through the University’s IRB before any research is conducted.

NEW DEADLINE to submit an application is Friday, September 18, 2015

Funding period: January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016
Funding:
Proposals may request up to $20,000 in direct costs to support any activity that directly relates to the successful conduct of the project. There are no indirect costs paid from this seed grant. Unspent funding at the end of the one-year project period will revert back to the Center Seed Grant pool unless a request for a time extension is requested and approved by the Center Director.

Application Guidelines:
Please submit one (1) packet containing the following sections. Each section must be completed.

1. Cover Sheet (1 page)
   Include title of proposal project, team members’ names, and contact information for Principal Investigators.

2. Proposal (4 pages)
   This section must be maximum 4 pages, single-spaced, with one inch margins, typed in no less than 11-point font. The section should address the following:
   a) **Summary of Project.** Summarize in one paragraph the purpose and method of your project and how it addresses health literacy.
   b) **Problem Statement, Specific Aims and Objectives of the Project.** Describe the main problem the proposal addresses. Explain what you want to achieve and how your proposal will address the problem.
   c) **Population/ Sample.** Describe the population and the sample, including rationale for why this population and sample are relevant to your project and to health literacy.
   d) **Work plan to Complete the Project.** Describe the method/approach you will take to complete the project and evaluate its impact. Include your process and timeline for obtaining IRB approval if any human subjects research. Include here the deliverables you propose as a result of the project, plus any conference papers and journal manuscripts.
   e) **Other Funding Sources/Other Resources.** List other funding sources you may have to complete this particular project, and include other resources and support you will have during the funding time period to assist in completing the project.
   f) **Sustainability.** Briefly describe how you plan to use the project’s findings and deliverables to sustain the project or further research in this area. How would you propose external funding for the future?

3. Research Team (2 pages maximum): Include brief bios on each team member that include how they will work on the project and what skills or experience they bring to this project.

4. Budget (1 page)
   All budgeted items must include a brief justification. Budget requests may be made for any activity that relates to the conduct of the project. Examples of budget items include support for data acquisition and analysis, development and pretesting of interventions and measures, travel for data collection or meetings with collaborators, release time support during the academic year, summer salary support and graduate research assistance. Faculty summer salary is limited to 10% of a faculty member’s academic year salary. The Seed Grant cannot pay for computer equipment.
5. Timeline (1 page)
Recommend a realistic timeline for the research and the deliverables. Proposed activities are to be completed within a one-year timeframe.

6. References

7. Current CVs of all investigators

8. Support letters from any individual or organizational partners on the project, on or off campus

Additional Requirements. Grantees will submit a final progress report that will include list of papers or proposals submitted or in preparation based on the grant within one month after the end date of their seed grant timeline. Grantees will also notify the Center of any papers accepted or subsequent proposals awarded based on the seed grant for a three-year period after the seed grant. All papers and publications related to the grant will acknowledge the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy Seed Grant program.

Send completed proposals and any questions by email to: healthliteracy@umd.edu
Please type subject line: CHL Seed Grant Competition

Review and Selection Process
The Center will screen all submitted proposals to determine whether the proposal meets the eligibility criteria and format. Proposals that do not meet the criteria will be removed from further consideration for the Seed Grant and the PIs will be notified. Proposals that pass initial screening will undergo formal review by an appointed review committee that will include affiliate faculty of the Center, Center staff and others chosen depending on topics and approaches addressed in the pool of proposals. The Committee will rank order the proposals and make decisions regarding number of fundable proposals, funding amount and funding availability.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals (1 to 5 scale used for each criteria):
1. Level of focus on health literacy
2. Innovativeness of concept and/or approach to addressing health literacy
3. Methodological rigor and quality of the research proposed
4. Feasible and realistic within time frame and budget limit
5. Potential of project and findings to turn into externally funded grant application

About the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy
The Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy was established to honor the legacy of Dr. Herschel S. Horowitz, scientist, educator, and public health advocate. The Center is part of the Dean’s Office of the School of Public Health. Staff, faculty and students work to advance health literacy science and translate research findings in to education, public policy, and community interventions.