

**SOUTHWEST HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE (SHERC)
CALL FOR PILOT PROPOSALS (TRACKS I AND II)**

For the 2018 Funding Cycle

Proposal Deadline: Friday, December 8, 2017

[The Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative](#) (SHERC) is a new, five-year NIH-funded cooperative agreement focused on increasing the health research capacity at NAU through basic biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research to address health disparities among diverse populations of the Southwestern United States (NIH #U54MD012388). SHERC is funded through the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and is administered by the NAU Center for Health Equity Research. The most recent guidelines for this Partnership are published in RFA-MD-17-003, and can be viewed through the [NIH website](#).

The primary goals of SHERC are to (1) enhance institutional research capacity at NAU within the areas of basic biomedical, behavioral, and/or clinical research; (2) enable all levels of investigators to become more successful in obtaining competitive extramural support, especially from NIH, particularly on diseases, public health conditions, and access to care issues that disproportionately impact minority and other health disparity populations; (3) foster environments conducive to career enhancement with a special emphasis on development of new and early career investigators; (4) enhance the quality of all scientific inquiry and promote research on minority health and health disparities; and (5) establish sustainable relationships with community-based organizations that will partner with NAU.

SHERC welcomes applications for the **Pilot Project Program (PPP), Tracks I and II**. We seek to provide seed funding to early career investigators and to established faculty who are changing research directions toward health equity research, with the objective of generating preliminary data that will increase investigators' competitiveness for NIH and other external health- and health equity-related research funding. Research collaborations with community-based organizations are encouraged.

Funding:

Track I, Preliminary Studies Awards will provide up to \$30,000 per year for two years (\$60,000 total).

Track II, Resubmission Awards will provide up to \$30,000 for one year for projects described in previously submitted proposals that have undergone external review but require revision and resubmission. The 2018 Funding Cycle will run from **January 15, 2018 – January 14, 2019**.

Eligibility:

The PPP (Tracks I and II) will be open to tenured or tenure-eligible faculty and to non tenure-track research faculty who are both (1) NAU regular, benefit eligible, employees, and (2) eligible to serve as Principal Investigators/Project Directors on extramural grants. Faculty investigators will be required to have at least 30% release time for research and scholarship defined in their *Statement of Expectations* (SOE). An investigator (as PI) may submit only one proposal per round, and may be included as co-investigator on only one project per round. An investigator (as PI) may not hold more than one type of pilot project (Tracks I or II) during any one funding year. For reporting purposes, each award will have only one PI of record.

Proposal Guidelines:

Track I and Track II proposals should follow the NIH format for an R03 application. Proposals should follow the [SF424 \(R&R\) Research Instructions - Version E](#), and must contain the following sections:

Track I (Preliminary Studies Award)	Track II (Resubmission Award)
Title Page (1 page limit)	Title Page (1 page limit)
<i>(Introduction not applicable)</i>	Introduction to resubmission and revision application (1 page limit)
Specific Aims (1 page limit)	Specific Aims (1 page limit)
Relevance to SHERC goals (1 page limit)	Relevance to SHERC goals (1 page limit)
Budget and Budget Justification for Years 1 and 2 Including if applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senior/Key Person ○ Other Personnel ○ Equipment ○ Travel ○ Participant/Trainee Support Costs ○ Other Direct Costs 	Budget and Budget Justification for Years 1 and 2 Including if applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senior/Key Person ○ Other Personnel ○ Equipment ○ Travel ○ Participant/Trainee Support Costs ○ Other Direct Costs
Biographical Sketches (5 page limit each)	Biographical Sketches (5 page limit each)
Research Strategy (6 page limit) Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significance ○ Innovation ○ Preliminary Studies <i>(if applicable)</i> ○ Approach 	Research Strategy (6 page limit) Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significance ○ Innovation ○ Preliminary Studies <i>(if applicable)</i> ○ Approach
References (No page limit)	References (No page limit)
If applicable, applications should also address protection for human subjects; inclusion of women, minorities, and children; vertebrate animals; and biohazards (no page limit)	If applicable, applications should also address protection for human subjects; inclusion of women, minorities, and children; vertebrate animals; and biohazards (no page limit)
<i>(Summary Statement not applicable)</i>	Previous Summary Statement (append)
Letters of Support from community or tribal partners (if applicable)	Letters of Support from community or tribal partners (if applicable)
Letter of Support from Chair/Director stating the percent effort for research designated in annual workload assignment for two-year period covered by the proposal	Letter of Support from Chair/Director stating the percent effort for research designated in annual workload assignment for one-year period covered by the proposal

Notes: (1) Any research involving human subjects will require IRB approval before initiation of the study. (2) Any research involving animals will require IACUC approval before initiation of the study. (3) Any research involving Native American participants will be required to follow ABOR policy on Tribal Consultation. (4) Because SHERC-supported projects are expected to lead to externally funded NIH proposals, investigators will also be expected to argue for the scientific premise, scientific rigor, and justification of biological variables underlying the proposed research. (5) Questions about allowable budget items should be addressed to Suzie Martinez (Suzie.Martinez@nau.edu).

Submission Information:

Documents should be combined into a single PDF file and submitted electronically by **5 pm on Friday, December 8, 2017**. Applications should be submitted to Suzie Martinez (Suzie.Martinez@nau.edu). Late proposals will not be reviewed.

Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be critiqued using the [NIH scoring system](#) that evaluates Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment, and Overall Impact, as well as the additional review criteria regarding human subjects, inclusion of women, minorities, and children, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and authentication of resources. Priority will be given to the most scientifically meritorious proposals that advance the goals of SHERC and are deemed most likely to lead to independent extramural support.

Expectations of Investigators:

Faculty selected for PPP funding will be expected to complete the proposed research aims within the designed timelines; to produce deliverables that include peer-reviewed publications and externally submitted grant proposals; to participate in periodic administrative meetings and faculty development activities provided by the Administrative Core; and to complete all progress reports required by NIMHD.