



California **HIV/AIDS**
Research Program



2011 Call for Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center Award Applications

Important Dates

September 13, 2011	Release of Call for Applications
September 27, 2011	Prospective Applicant Webinar (1:30 PM Pacific Time) See the CHRP Website for details.
October 11, 2011	Letters of Intent due 12:00 noon Pacific Time .
November 17, 2011	Applications due 12:00 noon Pacific Time .
March, 2012	Funding notification
April 1, 2012	Award start date

General Overview of Award Mechanism

Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center Awards support multi-disciplinary teams of investigators working in partnership with providers, consumers, advocates, and policymakers to conduct policy-relevant research. The awards are intended to encourage policy research that addresses important and timely research questions and strengthen local, state, and national capacity to enact HIV-relevant policy that is informed by objective and rigorously conducted research. To meet the challenges of a changing HIV/AIDS policy environment and the prevention and care needs of people most impacted by HIV/AIDS, CHRP invites applications for Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center Awards in the following targeted area: *Policy Research in Systems of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention*.

Research on systems of prevention and care encompasses both basic and applied studies that examine access, availability, utilization, cost, quality, delivery, organization, policy, and financing related to organizations and service delivery systems. This research is intended to produce new knowledge that can be applied to improve prevention and care services for affected persons and populations. This research may produce findings that inform the formulation of organizational, governmental, and legislative HIV/AIDS policies at the local, state, and national level.

Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

Policy Research in Systems of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention may include (but is not limited to) analyses of the impact of policy options likely to affect access, availability, quality, cost, continuity of services and health outcomes of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention services, evaluation of different healthcare delivery and

financing models as they are or might be applied to HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention services, and research on influences and decision making at various levels of the HIV/AIDS policy formulation and implementation process.

CHRP intends to fund two Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers, one in Northern California and one in Southern California. Funding would extend for a four-year period for each Center. All CHRP Policy Research Center applications are to include the following components:

Cross-Sector Institutional Collaboration: The application must represent collaboration between one academic institution and at least one organization or agency representing HIV/AIDS service providers, consumers, and/or advocates.

Collaboration Between Policy Research Centers: The applicant must detail a plan to foster collaboration with the other potential CHRP-funded Policy Research Center.

Policy Research Studies:

1. *Longer-Term Policy Research Studies:* Applicants must propose high-impact policy research studies in Systems of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of investigators. The policy research studies may be proposed as completely concurrent, partially overlapping, or sequential studies based on the optimal allocation of resources over the four-year life of the Center.
2. *Rapid Response Research Studies:* Applicants are required to propose a Center mechanism that will support rapid response research to emerging HIV/AIDS policy questions in Systems of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention during the four-year grant period. A rapid response mechanism should be responsive to policy proposals that require analysis in a two-week to six-month window. A contingency for subcontracting for appropriate external research expertise in the event that additional investigator capacity is required to address an emerging research question should also be included. When practical, the identification and formulation of emerging policy research questions should be conducted in collaboration with the Center's external policy research advisory committee (see below).

Dissemination Strategy: Applicants must propose strategies and activities for the timely dissemination of research findings among HIV/AIDS policy stakeholders throughout California. As part of this activity, the applicant may propose releasing written or online policy briefs and/or conducting agency and/or legislative briefings in coordination with CHRP. Research studies may be disseminated in scientific, peer-reviewed literature.

External Policy Research Advisory Committee : The applicants must propose an external advisory committee of diverse (geographic, ethnically, gender, sexual orientation) relevant providers, consumers, advocates, and policymakers and convene the committee at least four times each year, as well as provide a mechanism for the committee to participate in policy research discussions between convenings. The role of the advisory committee will be to provide a venue for in-depth discussion of policy research, including rapid response research, when practicable. During the pre-award process the successful awardees will collaborate to develop a common external advisory committee and will determine the role of each awardee in managing the committee.

Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements

Awards for CHRP Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers are up to \$500,000 per year in direct costs for up to four years. University of California institutions are not eligible for indirect costs. Non-UC institutions are eligible for indirect costs up to 25% of total eligible direct costs, or at the rate established for the institution through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (or other similarly established rate), whichever is lower. Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a period of 48 months.

Applicants must allocate a minimum of 25% of their budget for rapid response research studies.

While this mechanism is intended for multi-institutional partnerships, one of the principal investigators must take the lead in preparing and submitting all application materials, including the Letter of Intent (LOI). If funded, each of the two collaborating partners may elect to separately receive funds from CHRP. If appropriate for the research project, other experts or institution(s) may participate through subcontract(s) from the collaborating partners.

Principal investigators at the academic institution must have principal investigator status at a non-profit California research institution. Principal investigators from each of the participating organizations must commit to the CHRP project a minimum of 1.2 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort for each of the project years.

Merit Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate Collaborative Policy Research Center grant applications for:

1. The degree to which the proposal directly responds to applied HIV/AIDS systems of care and prevention policy research in California;
2. Qualifications of the investigators and capacity and experience of the participating institutions to carry out the research;
3. The feasibility of identifying issues, research design and methods, dissemination of findings, and evaluation of the impact of the rapid response policy research mechanism and its effectiveness in addressing policy issues likely to emerge during the course of the project duration;
4. Identification of the research problem(s) and specific aims of the longer-term policy research projects, including the rationale, research design and methods, plan of analysis, dissemination of findings, and the extent to which the results will contribute to advancing systems of HIV/AIDS prevention and care in California;
5. The extent to which the participating institutions have complementary and substantive roles in the proposed research and appear to have collaborated in the preliminary studies/activities and planning for the proposed studies;
6. The extent to which plans for the collaboration of both Policy Research Centers will strengthen research efforts;
7. The contribution that the proposed external Advisory committee would make regarding policy research and dissemination; and
8. Reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration of the project in relation to the proposed research and Center activities.

Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

CHRP Collaborative Policy Research Center applications must directly address the stated intent of this RFA and granting mechanism. Applications that do not clearly address the stated priority areas will not be forwarded for review.

General Information

Application Cycle Timeline: *Letter of Intent and Application deadlines are 12:00 noon Pacific Time: 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. All Letter of Intent and Application materials will be submitted electronically.*

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Prospective Applicant Webinar: Information for participation in the Prospective Applicant Webinar is posted on the [CHRP Website](#). The webinar is scheduled for September 27, 2011 from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM (Pacific Time). Understanding of the intent of the award and the application review process is central to the success of applicants. Participation by prospective applicants is strongly encouraged. During this meeting, program representatives will answer questions about the application and review process.

How to Apply and Required Letter of Intent: A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Policy Research Center Award applications. Specific instructions for submitting a [Letter of Intent](#) are available from the CHRP website. *It is important that LOI submissions follow these instructions. **Letters of Intent must be submitted electronically before 12:00 noon Pacific Time, October 11, 2011.*** Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by e-mail, and will then have access to materials to prepare a full application. LOIs will be approved as they are received; therefore, earlier submission will potentially provide earlier access to the full application materials for approved LOIs. *NOTE: It is recommended that applicants review the instructions and the LOI submission web pages as soon as possible in order to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the process before the deadline.*

Applications are due on November 17, 2011 before noon, Pacific Time, and will also be submitted electronically. Application instructions and guidelines, templates and forms will be available on approval of the LOI.

Contact Information:

To obtain guidance or direction on the suitability of a proposed project for this funding opportunity, contact:

John Mortimer, Ph.D.

Program Officer

Phone: 510/587-6131

Email: John.Mortimer@ucop.edu

For general questions regarding Letter of Intent or application preparation and submission, contact:

Contracts & Grants

Research Grants Program Office

Phone: 510-987-9386

Fax: 510-987-0454

Email: RGPOGrants@ucop.edu

California HIV/AIDS Research Program

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP; formerly UARP) at the University of California provides funding for the support of merit-reviewed HIV/AIDS-related research to be conducted at universities, non-profit research institutions and community organizations throughout California. The program's mission is to support excellent, timely, and innovative research that is attentive to the needs of California and will accelerate progress towards prevention and a cure for HIV/AIDS.

How to Contact CHRP

California HIV/AIDS Research Program

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