

Repurposing Research to Address Racial / Ethnic Health Disparities in the Greater Chicago Area

Description / Background

Proposals are submitted on the Cures Within Reach CureAccelerator platform. Sign up as a Researcher or Clinician at <https://app.cureaccelerator.org/registration> or log into an existing CureAccelerator account at <https://app.cureaccelerator.org/home> to submit.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) from [Cures Within Reach](#) (CWR) is seeking clinical repurposing trials from any research institution in the greater Chicago area to address racial / ethnic health disparities in communities of color as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>). While the funded institution must be in Chicagoland, patients and collaborators can be both within and outside the Chicago area. Clinical trials utilizing telehealth or other remote strategies are encouraged to apply.

At least 3 grants for up \$80,000 each will be funded through this RFP. CWR also has an open RFP for repurposing research led by a US-based racial / ethnic minority PI. For more information about this RFP, visit <https://app.cureaccelerator.org/rfp/view/112>.

Repurposed therapies can be used alone or in combination with other therapies or can be repurposed from an approved adult indication into a pediatric indication. **Therapies must already be FDA, EMA or any other regulatory agency approved or otherwise readily available for human use.**

We are interested in approved generic or proprietary drugs, devices, nutraceuticals or diagnostics that could be repurposed to create "new" treatments to:

- reduce the symptoms, progression or incidence for;
- restore function lost to; or
- reduce or eliminate severe side effects of currently used therapies

for any disease that impacts communities of color, as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>), thereby **improving patient outcomes and quality of life and addressing gaps in access, quality and / or affordability of care.**

CWR is also seeking projects that – in addition to creating positive patient impact via clinical data – will help to:

- improve the health and healthcare of communities of color, and/or
- reduce the fear and mistrust of clinical trial participation, and/or

- engage and educate prospective participants about clinical repurposing trials using already approved therapies

Only interventional clinical trials lasting no more than 36 months that treat patients to prevent disease progression and / or improve patient outcomes in unsolved diseases with a repurposed therapy are eligible for this round of funding. **Clinical trials focused on preventative care to prevent new disease diagnoses are not eligible for this round of funding.**

Examples of disease areas with racial / ethnic health disparities include:

- Chronic diseases
- Infant mortality
- HIV and other infectious diseases
- Opioid / substance abuse

All submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to address racial / ethnic health disparities and enroll patients in communities of color in the Research Description section of the proposal form. Community-based organizations are already engaged with and trusted by communities of color, and may include health-related organizations (i.e., a community health center) or social services-related organizations (i.e., food banks). CWR will provide the financial support of this requirement to engage community-based organizations, and a minimum \$5,000 of the project budget must be dedicated to community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$7,500 - \$20,000.

Proposals for this RFP will be reviewed, scored and ranked by an external grant review committee, and the top-rated Proposal submissions will be invited to submit a Full Grant. PIs will be contacted approximately 6-8 weeks following the Proposal submission deadline with a decision.

Additional Proposal submission instructions can be downloaded at this link:
<http://bit.ly/cwrclinicalrfp>.

Cures Within Reach is circulating this RFP in order to address racial / ethnic health disparities by finding potential treatments for unsolved diseases and conditions impacting communities of color, as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>). An unsolved disease is one in which one or more of the following are true:

- There is currently no effective treatment
- The current treatment is only effective for a portion of the patient population
- There is a treatment that is effective, but many patients develop resistance to the therapy
- There is a treatment that is effective for the entire patient population, but the treatment is very expensive, and therefore some patients cannot get access to the treatment
- There is a treatment that is effective for the entire patient population with significant side effects, and for some patients the negative side effects outweigh the benefits of the treatment

Examples of racial / ethnics health disparities clinical repurposing trials include:

- A trial in a disease area that disproportionately impacts community of color (such as diabetes or heart disease) and focuses enrollment on patients of color
- A trial in any disease area that includes specific enrollment goals to allow for statistically significant data analysis by race

- A trial in any disease area recruiting patients of color exclusively

Many of our successes in repurposing have come from researchers and clinicians who had ideas that could impact a disease that was outside their normal therapeutic or scientific area.

Please submit your repurposing ideas, find colleagues to work with and circulate this RFP to others who you think might be able to submit repurposing research that could provide solutions to address racial / ethnic health disparities as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>).

If you have eligibility questions, or if you have a repurposing idea that isn't an exact fit for this RFP, please contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org to discuss fit and/or submission options.

Important Funding Information:

All funding amounts are in US dollars.

Funding Definitions:

- Project Funding = total research budget (no set maximum)
- Remaining Project Funding = funding needed to reach the total research budget (no set maximum)
- Existing Project Funding = Project Funding minus Remaining Project Funding (no set maximum)
- Requested Project Funding = funding requested through this RFP (maximum = \$80,000, including the 20% institutional match)
- Budget Breakdown = breakdown of the Requested Project Funding (maximum total = \$80,000, including 20% institutional match)
- Estimated Overall Project Costs = Requested Project Funding (see above)

Cures Within Reach will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution, organization or company proposing the research will match at least 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. The REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING is equal to the ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN section of the proposal submission, and includes the 20% Institutional Match. The Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project, not in-kind efforts, and can include Indirect Costs, The Institutional Match can come from the Research Institution itself (including salaries, patient costs, etc.); from government or other public funders; from individuals, foundations or other private funders; or from any combination of these sources.

Up to 10% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING may be used for Direct Project Administration Costs. However, the total amount of Indirect Costs and Direct Project Administrative Costs combined may not be more than 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. No funds provided by CWR can be used for Indirect Costs.

All submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to address racial / ethnic health disparities and enroll patients in communities of color in the Research Description section of the proposal form. CWR will provide the financial support of this requirement to engage community-based organizations. **A minimum \$5,000 of the project budget must be dedicated to community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$7,500 - \$20,000. These costs should be included as “Direct Project Administration Costs” in the submission form Budget Breakdown.**

Cures Within Reach will accept REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts that are within the minimum and maximum amounts indicated. We do not set an upper limit to the PROJECT FUNDING, or the EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING, but REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts to Cures Within Reach are limited to the maximum amount specified in the Funding Information section below. Proposals may be submitted for which the PROJECT FUNDING is within the Cures Within Reach maximum, and for projects that already have EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING from another source and require REMAINING PROJECT FUNDING, when this additional funding from Cures Within Reach will help speed patient impact.

Cures Within Reach REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project. REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING from Cures Within Reach cannot be the first funding raised for a project, unless the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, including the 20% match from the institution, organization or company proposing the research, equals the PROJECT FUNDING.

Here are two examples of funding requests and disbursements to help investigators and institutions understand the funding opportunity.

Example A

The minimum funding request to CWR is \$50,000 and the maximum is \$80,000. The PI enters \$80,000 for REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and for ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN, which equals the PROJECT FUNDING. CWR approves this project, and will provide \$64,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING) and the investigator/institution will match the remaining \$16,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING.

Example B

The minimum funding request to CWR is \$50,000 and the maximum is \$80,000. The PI enters \$80,000 for REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and for ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN, which will cover one-third of the \$240,000 entered for PROJECT FUNDING. The other \$160,000 is entered for EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING, and has already been secured by the investigator and institution. CWR approves this project, and will provide \$64,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING) and the investigator/institution will match the remaining \$16,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and provide the \$160,000 of the EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING.

Diseases/Conditions

[Any Unsolved Disease](#)

Treatments

[Any repurposed drugs, devices, nutraceuticals or diagnostics](#)

Project Type

- Human Clinical Trial
-

Timeline

Do you have a preference for where the research should take place?

This RFP is open to accredited Chicagoland accredited academic, nonprofit and governmental research institutions and/or health systems significantly involved with medical research, where good scientific research and clinical practices can be assured. While the funded institution must be in Chicagoland, patients and collaborators can be both within and outside the Chicago area. Clinical trials utilizing telehealth or other remote strategies are encouraged to apply.

Do you have a preference for where you would like to see patient impact?

We are open to repurposed therapies to treat any unsolved disease impacting racial / ethnic health disparities, as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>), thereby improving patient outcomes and quality of life and addressing gaps in access, quality and / or affordability of care in communities of color.

CWR is also seeking projects that – in addition to creating positive patient impact via clinical data – will help to:

- improve the health and healthcare of communities of color, and/or
- reduce the fear and mistrust of clinical trial participation, and/or
- engage and educate prospective participants about clinical repurposing trials using already approved therapies

We are hopeful that any discovery would be useful anywhere in the world where the repurposed therapy is available.

Restrictions

Please see the Description / Background section for any restrictions. There are no other restrictions other than those described above.

Other Information for Researchers

Cures Within Reach primarily funds proof of concept clinical trials that can determine whether a repurposed therapy can have a direct and positive impact on patients. Sometimes the clinical trials in our portfolio are open label studies with clinical endpoints that compare to the natural history of the disease. Other clinical trials are randomized, blinded and controlled studies. We are open to all clinical trial designs that have the opportunity to create a robust and well-defined outcome that will show reproducible clinical impact.

Cost effectiveness, speed and patient impact are key ranking criteria for a successful Proposal submission. Cures Within Reach expects to select a small number of Proposals to be chosen for a Full Grant submission. PIs will receive a decision on their Proposal within approximately 6-8 weeks of the RFP deadline.

While repurposing clinical trial projects are eligible for this round of funding, we welcome proposals for any research stage / type, which may be considered for future funding opportunities. If you are interested in sharing a preclinical repurposing research idea, please contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org.

Funding Available

Minimum \$50,000

Maximum \$80,000

Funding Description

See full Funding information in the Description / Background section above. Cures Within Reach will accept REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts that are within the minimum and maximum amounts indicated. Cures Within Reach REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project, as indicated in the Research Description. Cures Within Reach will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution, organization or company proposing the research will match at least 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. The Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project, not in-kind efforts, and can include Indirect Costs. The Institutional Match can come from the Research Institution itself (including salaries, patient costs, etc.); from government or other public funders; from individuals, foundations or other private funders; or from any combination of these sources. All submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to address racial / ethnic health disparities and enroll patients in communities of color in the Research Description section of the proposal form. CWR will provide the financial support of this requirement to engage community-based organizations. A minimum \$5,000 of the project budget must be dedicated to community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$7,500 - \$20,000. These costs should be included as "Direct Project Administration Costs" in the submission form Budget Breakdown.

Open to co-funding

Co-Funding Description

Open to co-funding. Cures Within Reach is open to working with other funders who share our desire to find solutions for racial / ethnic health disparities and are interested in these near-term repurposing opportunities. We will accept projects that already have funding from another source and require additional funding, when this additional funding from CWR will help improve the chances of success of the project, and therefore increase the chance of patient impact. CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project, as indicated in the Description / Background.

Due Date for Project Proposal Summary Submissions

07-30-2021
