

Repurposing Research to Address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Greater Chicago Area

Description / Background

Proposals are submitted on the Cures Within Reach CureAccelerator online 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. **Additional Proposal submission instructions can be downloaded at this link:** <http://bit.ly/cwrclinicalrfp>.

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 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in clinical research**. While the funded institutions and Principal Investigators (PIs) 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.

Eligible submissions must **EITHER**:

- **Address disease racial / ethnic health disparities in communities of color as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>), led by a greater Chicago area PI of any racial / ethnic background**

OR

- **Be in any disease area and led by a greater Chicago area underrepresented racial / ethnic minority PI (as defined by the NIH; Section A in <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>)**

AND

- **Be interventional clinical trials using repurposed therapies, including drugs, devices, nutraceuticals and diagnostics, that are **already approved or generally recognized as safe by the US Food and Drug Administration, the European Medicines Agency or other regulatory agency****
- **Be conducted at greater Chicago area **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**

CWR is accepting **budgets of up to \$100,000** for this funding opportunity, which includes the

required 20% Institutional Match (see Important Funding Information below).

Any health disparities submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to engage communities of color in the clinical trial. CWR requires that at least \$5,000 of the submitted budget be used for community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$5,000 - \$10,000. Ideas for possible community engagement must be included in the Research Description section of the proposal form and do not count towards the suggested word length of 750 words. Community-based organizations are already engaged with and trusted by communities of color, and may include health-related organizations (i.e., community health centers), social services-related organizations (i.e., food banks) or other organizations (i.e., religious groups). Community engagement ideas do not need specific details at the proposal stage, and proposals will not be scored on community engagement in the review process.

Clinical repurposing trials led by underrepresented racial / ethnic minority PIs may, but are not required to, focus on health disparities. CWR is also interested in promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in biomedical clinical research by 1) supporting the careers of and 2) closing the NIH funding gap for underrepresented racial / ethnic groups through funding for clinical repurposing trials led by minority PIs.

CWR is 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

Examples of eligible health disparities clinical repurposing trials could 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

Any eligible clinical repurposing trials may also:

- Test combination therapies to increase efficacy, including combining the current disease treatment with a repurposed treatment or combining multiple repurposed therapies
- Repurpose therapies approved for use in adults into pediatric indications, or vice versa

Only interventional clinical trials lasting no more than 36 months that treat or screen 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.**

Repurposing innovation, feasibility of the research plan, relevance to the patient population, potential clinical impact, "value" of the research and the research team are key ranking criteria for a successful proposal submission. Proposals for this RFP will be reviewed, scored and ranked by CWR's external Grant Review Committee, and the top-scoring

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.

CWR is interested in supporting both previously funded PIs and early-stage PI who have received little or no extramural research funding to date. PIs who have not received extramural funding previously and/or who do not currently have their own lab should include a Letter of Support from a funded, senior researcher who will act as a mentor for the proposed clinical trial and the PI.

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 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in clinical research.

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

Important Funding Information:

CWR will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution or organization 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 20% Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project and can include Indirect Costs.** The Institutional Match may come from the Research Institution itself (including salaries, patient costs, etc.); from government or other public funders; from individuals, foundations or other private funders; from industry (including the dollar value of donated drug); or from any combination of these sources.

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; must be equal to the Requested Project Funding
- Existing Project Funding = Project Funding minus Remaining Project Funding (no set maximum)
- Requested Project Funding = funding requested through this RFP (maximum = \$100,000, including the 20% institutional match)
- Budget Breakdown = breakdown of the Requested Project Funding (maximum total = \$100,000, including 20% institutional match)
- Estimated Overall Project Costs = Requested Project Funding (see above)

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.

Any health disparities submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to engage communities of color in the clinical trial. Community engagement ideas do not need specific details at the proposal stage, and proposals will not be scored on community engagement in the review process. CWR requires that at least \$5,000 of the submitted budget be used for community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$5,000 - \$10,000. **Community engagement costs should be included as “Direct Project Administration Costs” in the Budget Breakdown of the submission form and do not count toward the 10% limit for Direct Project Administration costs.**

CWR 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 CWR 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 CWR maximum, and for projects that already have EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING from another source and require REMAINING PROJECT FUNDING, when this additional funding from CWR will help speed patient impact.

CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project. REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING from CWR cannot be the first funding raised for a project, unless the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, including the 20% Institutional Match, 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 maximum funding request to CWR \$100,000. The PI enters \$100,000 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 \$80,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING) and the institution will match the remaining \$20,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING.

Example B

The maximum funding request to CWR is \$100,000. The PI enters \$100,000 for REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and for ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN, which will cover one-third of the \$300,000 entered for PROJECT FUNDING. The other \$200,000 is entered for EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING, and has already been secured by the investigator or institution. CWR approves this project, and will provide \$80,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING) and the institution will match the remaining \$20,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and provide the \$200,000 of the EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING.

Diseases/Conditions

Any disease area

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 Chicago area 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 the Chicago area, patients and collaborators can be both within and outside the Chicago area. Clinical trials utilizing telehealth or other remote strategies are encouraged to apply. Although start-ups, biotechs, pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies are not eligible for this RFP, their collaborators at eligible institutions can apply. Contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org to learn more.

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

This RFP seeks clinical repurposing trials in any unsolved disease that are:

- led by a Chicago area-based underrepresented racial / ethnic minority PI (as defined by the NIH; Section A of <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>)
- OR address racial / ethnic health disparities in communities of color as defined by the NIH (see <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview>) and are led by a Chicago area-based PI of any racial / ethnic background

We are hopeful that this RFP can help address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in clinical research and that any therapeutic discovery would be useful anywhere in the world where the repurposed therapy is available.

Restrictions

There are no other restrictions other than those described above.

Other Information for Researchers

Any health disparities submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to engage communities of color in the clinical trial. CWR requires that at least \$5,000 of the submitted budget be used for community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$5,000 - \$10,000. Ideas for possible community engagement must be included in the Research Description section of the proposal form and do not count towards the suggested word length of 750 words. Community-based organizations are already engaged with and trusted by communities of color, and may include health-related organizations (i.e., community health centers), social services-related organizations (i.e., food banks) or other organizations (i.e., religious groups). Community engagement ideas do not need specific details at the proposal stage, and proposals will not be scored on community engagement in the review process.

CWR 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.

CWR is also interested in supporting both previously funded PIs and early-stage PIs who have received little or no extramural research funding to date. PIs who have not received extramural funding previously and/or who do not currently have their own lab should include a Letter of Support from a funded, senior researcher who will act as a mentor for the proposed clinical trial and the PI.

Repurposing innovation, feasibility of the research plan, relevance to the patient population, potential clinical impact, "value" of the research and the research team are key ranking criteria for a successful proposal submission. Proposals for this RFP will be reviewed, scored and ranked by CWR's external Grant Review Committee, and the top-scoring 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.

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

Funding Available

Minimum \$50,000

Maximum \$100,000

Funding Description

See full Funding information in the Research Description section above. Any health disparities

submissions for this RFP must include ideas and/or plans to for engagement / collaborations with community-based organizations to engage communities of color in the clinical trial. Community engagement ideas do not need specific details at the proposal stage, and proposals will not be scored on community engagement in the review process. CWR requires that at least \$5,000 of the submitted budget be used for community engagement. CWR recommends a range of \$5,000 - \$10,000. Community engagement costs should be included as “Direct Project Administration Costs” in the Budget Breakdown of the submission form and do not count toward the 10% limit for Direct Project Administration costs. CWR will accept REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts that are within the minimum and maximum amounts indicated. CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project, as indicated in the Research Description. CWR will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution or organization proposing the research will match at least 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. The Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project 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; from industry (including the dollar value of donated drug); or from any combination of these sources. All funding amounts are in US dollars.

Open to co-funding

Co-Funding Description

CWR is open to working with other funders who share our desire to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in clinical research 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 Research Description.

Due Date for Project Proposal Summary Submissions

06-06-2022
