

RITA&ALEXHILLMANFOUNDATION

RACISM AND HEALTH

A SPECIAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2021 HILLMAN INNOVATIONS IN CARE PROGRAM

2021 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: FOCUS ON RACISM AND HEALTH

The Hillman Innovations in Care (HIC) Program was established in 2014 to advance innovative, nursing-driven models of care that target the health and healthcare needs of groups and communities who have historically struggled against oppression, discrimination and indifference. These populations include Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, low-income rural populations, and others.

This year the HIC program is issuing a special call for submissions that address **racism and its impact on health**. Racism has been, and remains, the root cause of serious health inequities that unjustly affect communities of color. These disparities include increased risk for diabetes, heart disease, obesity and mental illness; inequitable access to high-quality care; inordinately negative outcomes such as infant and maternal mortality rates for Black mothers and babies that are twice as high as those for white populations, and life expectancy that can be as much as ten years shorter than white counterparts living a short drive away.

The disproportionate harm of the COVID-19 pandemic in Black, Indigenous and other communities of color further underscores the deep inequities that persist in our society. Addressing and dismantling racism in its myriad forms—structural, interpersonal, and institutional—is a critical and constructive approach to advancing health equity and improving population health.

The program will award two (2) grants of up to \$600,000 each, distributed over a 36-month period. Projects are expected to begin January 1, 2022, and end December 31, 2024.

The 2021 HIC program seeks proposals for bold, nursing-driven interventions that:

- Seek to mitigate the effects of racism on health and/or narrow gaps in health equity
- Identify and address sources of racism that affect health

- Challenge conventional strategies for delivering and improving care to populations affected by racism
- Build trust and credibility in programs or systems of care
- Are informed by anti-racism practices
- Present strong preliminary evidence
- Show potential for broad replicability

Additional priority consideration will be given to proposals that include one or more of the following:

- Strong partnerships with community organizations
- Engagement of patients, caregivers, and communities in the design of the intervention
- Inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and multidisciplinary collaboration including investigators from different disciplines
- Investigators from diverse backgrounds or with diverse life experiences (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, class origin/first generation college, LGBTQ+, disability, national origin)
- Methodologies and metrics for advancing anti-racism models of care
- Measurable goals and outcomes

We will not consider:

- White papers, literature reviews, or support for publishing
- Basic science or research
- Development of stand-alone technology including medical devices and mobile apps not integral to the overall design of the program
- Capital projects or improvements
- Projects outside the United States and its territories

WHO SHOULD APPLY

We believe that transformative ideas are as likely to come from community health clinics as they are from major academic research centers.

We welcome applications from a wide variety of institutions and care settings and from investigators representing a diverse range of backgrounds.

AWARD EVALUATION CRITERIA

Impact on Health: Will the project have a significant impact on health outcomes associated with racism? Does the proposal clearly explain the pathway to impact,

including how it will improve health and the provision of care among communities affected by racism?

Impact on Health Equity: Will the project have a significant impact on health equity within the target population? Does the proposal clearly explain the metrics and approach to improving health equity?

Boldness and Creativity: Does the proposal present creative solutions that address health and health care problems in a new way? Does the proposed intervention have the potential to leapfrog conventional approaches?

Nursing Driven: Is the proposed intervention rooted in nursing's strengths and holistic approach to care? Is a nurse the principal investigator, a co-investigator or co-lead of the proposed intervention?

Inclusion: Does the team include diverse perspectives? Are members of the target community meaningfully included in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project?

Scalability: Can the innovation and delivery mechanisms be readily implemented in systems and/or communities to improve health or health care? What are the barriers to scaling up?

Sustainability: Does the proposal outline a realistic, specific course for developing a path to sustainability in the three-year timeframe?

Evidence/Execution Plan: Are the proposed concept and approach based on sound analysis and evidence? Are feasible activities and reasonable measurable outcomes set out for the 36-month timeline of the grant?

Leadership: Do the leaders and key team members demonstrate the commitment, skills, and experience necessary to bring anti-racist solutions to scale?

Institutional and Community Support: How does the host organization bring demonstrable support and commitment to the proposed project? How does it align with institutional priorities?

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who is eligible?

- U.S. 501(c)(3) non profit organizations that are not classified as private foundations. (The Foundation will consider only organizations that can provide proof of qualifying

non-profit status, including a tax-exempt determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service.)

- International organizations that are the equivalent of U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations that are submitting a project that focuses within the United States
- Government entities
- Faith-based organizations that welcome and serve all members of the community regardless of religious belief

Who is not eligible?

- Individuals
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application consists of three parts: (1) project profile, (2) letter of intent, and (3) supporting materials.

1. Project Profile

Please Provide:

- Organization/Institution contact information
- Primary Investigator contact information
- Brief description of your organization or institution (500 words maximum)
- Executive summary of your project (250 words maximum)

2. Letter of Intent (1,000 words maximum)

While the substance and style of narratives will vary depending on the nature of the proposal, all letters of intent should accomplish the following:

- Describe the main issue, problem, or opportunity and why it is important
- Identify the target vulnerable population
- Describe the proposed intervention/model of care/approach being taken and any evidence it has generated
- Explain how the proposed intervention relates to other models in the field and how it is innovative
- Identify the PI and other key participants including collaborating organizations
- Explain why you, your organization and your collaborators are well qualified to address the issue or subject.
- Include a statement addressing the team's past and present contributions to addressing diversity, equity and inclusion n

- Explain briefly the anticipated measurable outcomes and benefits of the project, including potential long-term impact

3. Supporting Materials

Documents include:

- Short bios (½ – 1 page) of the project team. *Full CVs are discouraged.*
- Up to two (2) letters of support
- Up to two (2) items that provide additional evidence/information to support the application, which may include a link to a brief video (no more than two minutes), published articles or brochures

Applications must be filled out and submitted online at
<http://www.rahf.org/grants>

Program staff will contact you via phone or email should we require more information about your application. If your project is selected to move forward in the review process, we will request a full proposal. You will receive an email with instructions for completing a full proposal for our review. Organizations that are selected for a site visit will be contacted by phone or email; visits will be scheduled by mutual convenience.

A copy of this RFP can be viewed and/or downloaded on the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation website at:
<http://www.rahf.org/grant-programs/hillman-innovations-in-care-program/RFP>

For examples of what we have funded in the past, please see the work of current *Hillman Innovations in Care* grantees on the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation website:
<http://www.rahf.org/grant-programs/hillman-innovations-in-care-program/>

ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Project leaders are expected to generate deliverables and participate in activities that elucidate and showcase progress:

- Annual written reports
- Periodic updates, including conversations via teleconference and informal site visits
- Dissemination of knowledge through publications in peer-reviewed literature, etc.
- Delivery of a final report that captures a clear assessment of the impact of the project

REVIEW PROCESS

The HIC Advisory Committee—a diverse group of health care leaders representing a broad range of expertise—will review the proposals along with Hillman staff.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE*

Applications due	Tuesday, March 30, 2021
Finalists invited for full proposal	Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Full proposals due	Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Awards announced	Tuesday, October 26, 2021

** Schedule and dates are subject to change. Changes will be announced to applicants via email and posted to the RAHF website.*

ALLOWABLE COSTS

Grant funds may be used for the following cost categories:

1. Personnel
2. Travel
3. Consultants
4. Direct Supplies
5. Equipment: Please note, partial or full support for equipment may be requested. Funding for infrastructure will be limited
6. Other Research Costs
7. Sub-grants/ Subcontracts
8. Indirect costs: Please note, the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation will provide a limited amount of indirect costs, based on the nature of the applicant organization, to a maximum of 15% of direct costs of the grantee's administered grant value (Items 1–7 outlined above). This amount will be included in the \$600,000 of direct costs (i.e., total value of the grant will be \$600,000).

Proposals with thoughtful and efficient use of resources will be preferred over proposals representing comparable efforts that do not have the same value for the investment. In some circumstances (e.g., rapidly changing technologies), subcontracting specific project activities to an outside institution with the infrastructure and expertise to deliver results may be considered advantageous over establishing in-house capacity.

PRIVACY NOTICE

To help us in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation (collectively, "Submission Materials") will become the property of the Foundation and will be shared with other members of the Advisory Committee, Board of Directors, and other funding partners or potential funding partners. We will report publicly on the number of applications received.

The proposals, in addition to analysis by our staff and consultants, may be subject to confidential external review by independent subject-matter experts, potential co-funders, and (for educational purposes only) participants in the Hillman Scholars Program for Nursing Innovation. Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, we recommend you consult with legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission, and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

We respect confidential information we receive. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as being confidential, we may publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials to the extent as may be required by law and as is necessary for potential co-funders and external reviewers to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies.

ABOUT THE RITA & ALEX HILLMAN FOUNDATION

The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of patients, families, and communities through nursing-driven innovation. To this end, the Foundation cultivates nurse leaders, supports nursing research, and promotes new models of care that are critical to making the U.S. healthcare system more patient-centered, accessible, equitable, and affordable.