

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Population Science Data Development Awards

Maximum Award: \$5,000

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) Population Research Core (PopRC) assists investigators with the use of large, complex data sets that are often not created for research projects. This includes the SEER-Medicare linked database along with other administrative resources. Many of these data sets need extensive development before analysis (e.g., data cleaning and creation of analytical variables). Although investigators often have support for statistical analysis, they rarely have the time or ability to do this developmental work. The cost for doing database development, therefore, is a barrier to using large data sets for research projects and for obtaining preliminary findings to cite in grant applications. This award is designed to eliminate this barrier and make existing data sets more accessible to investigators.

A maximum of \$5,000 dollars may be awarded. This money will be used by the PopRC to develop a relevant database so that it can be used by the project investigators.

The maximum project duration is one year. Shorter durations are desirable.

Eligibility

- All faculty conducting independent research are invited to apply.
- Both junior and senior-level faculty members are eligible for these awards.
- Either the primary investigator or a co-investigator must be a member of the HCCC.
- Collaborative efforts including investigators with varied backgrounds are encouraged.

Application Process

Interested investigators are required to discuss their project with Population Research Core staff before submitting an application. The goal of the initial consultations will be to determine project feasibility and to develop a project work scope agreement and budget.

All projects must comply in full with the NIH policies concerning research on human subjects and/or animals. Documentation of protocol approval by the appropriate institutional committee and HIPAA regulations will be required at the appropriate time. Other approvals (e.g., from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Social Security Administration) may be needed depending upon the nature of the project. Copies of all assurances and certifications must be given to the HCCC administration before funds can be allocated.

Application Letter: The application letter (1-2 pages) should include the following information:

- Overview of the proposed project, including necessary data resources, key study methods, and a study timeline.
- Area of expertise of principal investigator as well as collaborating investigators and staff.
- Potential of the project for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Clear indication of the relevance of the research to cancer and potential for at least translational application of the findings to or from community practice.
- Statement of how the proposed project will lead to publication or extramural funding.

The letter should be addressed to Dr. Elizabeth Chrischilles, Associate Director for Population Sciences. The letter should be e-mailed to Bradley McDowell, Population Science Program Coordinator (bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu).

Deadline: Applications taken whenever funding is available. Check with Bradley McDowell (bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu) to determine current funding situation.

Award Date: It is anticipated that applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of application.

Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by representatives of the Population Research Core Advisory Committee and the HCCC Director. Funding preference will be given to the most innovative projects on the leading edge of research that can be applied to cancer control and population science.

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Relevance to cancer control and population science
- Scientific merit/quality, including adequacy of design and proposed statistical analyses and originality and innovativeness of the proposal
- Research question is addressable using available population-based data sets
- Interdisciplinary collaborations
- Qualifications of the key personnel and their ability to complete the project as proposed
- Degree to which the project addresses an issue of significant importance within cancer research, including issues related to incidence, prevention, early detection, mortality, therapy, survival and quality of life
- Promise for the project to lead to peer-reviewed publication or external funding

Contacts

- To ask general questions or to make inquiries about the applications process, please contact the Population Science Program Coordinator, Bradley McDowell, by phone (4-1768) or e-mail (bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu).
- To discuss specific research ideas, please contact Associate Director for Population Science, Dr. Betsy Chrischilles: e-chrischilles@uiowa.edu