

# Child Health Collaborative Grant Program

*A collaboration among the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota, Children's Minnesota, and Hennepin Healthcare*

## University of Minnesota/CHILDREN'S MINNESOTA CHILD HEALTH COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

2024 Request for Applications  
March 25, 2024

The University of Minnesota (UMN) Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), in partnership with the UMN School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and Children's Minnesota, and with additional pediatric expertise from Hennepin Healthcare, are pleased to announce the 2024-25 Child Health Collaborative Grant Award Request for Applications (RFA).

This grant is designed to support a collaborative project that addresses an important and unmet child health issue within communities across Minnesota. Our vision is to enable and support scholarship that is co-developed by Children's Minnesota and by the UMN. The long-term goal of this program is innovation that connects the development of evidence-based health improvement strategies with the translation of those strategies into improved health outcomes for children and adolescents throughout Minnesota and the nation.

With this RFA, we encourage applicants to develop rigorously-designed scientific projects that promote collaborations across health systems focused on unmet health needs, and attendant knowledge gaps, affecting children in Minnesota. Proposals should represent novel, high-impact research and should outline the potential for developing into long-term research and evaluation projects that will attract larger grants from NIH or other federal, state, or private funding agencies. Discussion among attendees at the December 2023 "Research in Child Health Dinner Forum" called particular attention to these timely and important topics in our communities:

1. Applications focused on: 1) children's mental health issues; 2) health disparities; 3) prevention of gun violence; 4) substance abuse disorder; and 5) sexuality and gender identity are particularly encouraged. Notably, issues germane to these high-priority areas for research may demonstrate some degree of overlap, which is acceptable. Background examples could include:
  - a. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that more than 14 million children and adolescents in the United States, or 1 in 5, have a [diagnosable mental health disorder](#). In 2018, suicide was reported as the 2nd leading cause of death among children and adolescents ages 10-24.
  - b. Racism is a social determinant of health that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, and families. Evidence demonstrating the negative impact of racism on child health through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear.
  - c. Substance abuse affects individuals [across the lifespan](#) and has reached crisis proportions, with fentanyl deaths among children and teens surging during the COVID-19 pandemic, [quadrupling from 2018-2021](#).
  - d. US pediatric firearm deaths [increased in 2021](#), above the spike in 2020, with worsening disparities. Implementation of prevention strategies and policies among communities at highest risk is critical.
  - e. Any discussion of sexuality in child health must recognize the surging prevalence of [sexually transmitted infections](#), with a >10-fold increase in cases of congenital syphilis in the past decade.
2. Other proposals that focus on child and adolescent health, not specifically described above, are also encouraged, and will be reviewed by the same selection committee.

In this RFA, we seek proposals that will objectively evaluate the role of these challenges in child and adolescent health outcomes; generate new knowledge that informs the field; and offer insights into policies and interventions that can address these issues.

The collaboration must involve at least two co-Principal Investigators: one from Children's Minnesota, and an investigator from UMN (including all five campuses). If the co-PI representing the UMN is not a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at the UMN Medical School, then inclusion of a co-Investigator from the UMN Department of Pediatrics is a requirement of the application, and their engagement in the proposal must be addressed in the “Investigators” and “Narrative” (Section F) components of the application. Engagement of co-investigators from Hennepin Healthcare is also encouraged, but not required. Applicants from Children's Minnesota must be either employed or contracted for 0.5 FTE or greater. Applicants from the University must be current, full-time faculty members in any track. Proposals must clearly explain the roles and responsibilities of all research team members in the following areas:

- Development of the study hypothesis/aims/design.
- Conduct of the study, including clearly delineated lines of responsibility for study aims.
- Analysis of the study data, including plans for biostatistical evaluation, power analyses, etc.
- Metrics for data presentation, publications, and future funding plans.
- Plans for scientific and community-based dissemination of findings.

### Timeline of Events

Collaborative Grant RFA	Released on March 25, 2024
Full applications (NIH-style format and review by investigators from UMN, Children's Minnesota, Hennepin Healthcare). <a href="#">Submit electronically</a> .	Due June 3, 2024 5:00 PM CST
Funding decision	Announced on July 12, 2024
Project Commencement	July 15, 2024

It is anticipated that up to three awards will be funded, with a two-year budget period spanning June 29, 2024 through June 26, 2026. A total budget request of up to \$75,000 will be considered. Funding for the second year of the proposal will be contingent on submission of a satisfactory progress report covering the first year of the grant. Indirect costs will not be supported. Up to 5% of salary effort may be requested. Please visit the [CTSI website](#) for more information, and feel free to send inquiries to [ctsi@umn.edu](mailto:ctsi@umn.edu).

Resources to support your research:

- The Department of Pediatrics has consultative services available in its pre-award program for investigators seeking assistance in planning research projects.
- Children’s Minnesota has a Department of Data and Analytics, department of Equity and Inclusion, community advisory boards, and employee resource groups that all can help further support team science and institutional collaboration by assisting with disseminating study findings to our peers, to study participants themselves, and to the broader community who stand to benefit from these research projects and what is learned.
- CTSI supports University researchers and community representatives—including nonprofits, clinics, physicians, and advocates—who collaborate on research. The [Clinical Research Support Center \(CRSC\)](#) offers experts on a wide range of topics related to study start-up including: study feasibility review, protocol development, biostatistical support, informatics expertise and access to clinical data, recruitment strategies, regulatory services, and more.

- All investigative teams selected for funding will participate in a joint UMN-Children's study inception meeting to facilitate each study's start-up activities.

Criteria for full proposal review will include the following components:

- **Investigators:** Is there clear evidence for engagement by all investigators? Is there evidence that co-PIs each will bring creative, independent contributions to the project? For established collaborators, do the investigators demonstrate a track record of previous collaboration? For new collaborators, do the investigators outline a compelling plan for future collaboration?
- **Environment:** Is there evidence that both institutions are committed to the proposed project? Do letters of support indicate existing infrastructure and resources necessary to support the proposed project?
- **Synergy:** How will the proposed project leverage the respective strengths of the two institutions? What will the collaboration facilitate that neither institution could accomplish acting individually?
- **Innovation:** What innovative methods are proposed that could change the approach to the problem being studied, and/or generate new knowledge that would substantively advance the field in question?
- **Impact:** What is the public health importance for Minnesota children of the problem being addressed, particularly in the key target areas stated in the RFA? What are the prospects that the work can have an impact on the health problem under investigation? How will study findings be shared with community stakeholders?
- **Prospects for scholarship and future:** Do the co-PIs express a plan/timeline for scholarly publication/presentation of findings? Do the co-PIs outline a plan for future extramural funding for continued study/intervention/public health impact of the problem in question (NIH, CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, philanthropy, or other sources of support)?

Thank you for considering an application for the 2024 Child Health Collaborative Grant Program! Please contact Stuart Winter ([stuart.winter@childrensmn.org](mailto:stuart.winter@childrensmn.org)) or Mark Schleiss ([schleiss@umn.edu](mailto:schleiss@umn.edu)) with any questions.

Sincerely,



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