Grand Challenges

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Request for Proposals:
Criminal Legal System Reform, Substance Use, and Alcohol/Overdose Mortality

Conceptual Goal of the SUD GC: By 2030, our goal is to reduce alcohol, opioid, and other substance mortality by 45%, substance-related consequences (including overdose, injury, and accidents) by 40%, crime, incarceration, and recidivism by 20%, adverse childhood experiences by 20%, and overall economic costs of substance related morbidity and mortality by 20%.

Overview and Aims of the SUD GC: Substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) are leading causes of morbidity and mortality, and are associated with excessive social costs and human suffering. Many challenges facing New Mexico are associated with SUD. Recent trends in New Mexico suggest alarming increases in drug overdose deaths due to methamphetamine and increases in alcohol-related mortality. The SUD GC is a coordinated, multi-systems approach to address substance use and SUD in New Mexico. Our conceptual goal will be achieved through evidence-based implementation projects and by systematic research that addresses the continuum of substance use to SUD, including: 1) basic science research elucidating processes of substance use and SUD, 2) primary prevention of substance use and SUD, 3) secondary prevention of the progression of substance use to SUD, and substance-related harms, through early identification and intervention, 4) improving treatment outcomes for individuals with SUD, and 5) policy evaluation and implementation to address the continuum of substance use, SUD, and substance-related harms.

Request for Proposals: We are currently requesting proposals for Pilot Research Projects that are focused on reducing alcohol, opioid, and other substance mortality, substance-related consequences (including overdose, injury, and accidents), crime, incarceration, and recidivism. Pilot proposals geared toward recreational cannabis legalization, alcohol-related motivation and decision making, harm reduction, expungement related to substance use offenses, alcohol-related mortality prevention, and/or drug overdose prevention will be prioritized. Priority will also be given to proposals that are high in overall scientific merit and are likely to be successful in generating pilot data for extramural funding.

Funding will be awarded by December 1, 2021 and must be spent within one year from the date of award. Any unspent funds will be returned to the SUD GC index. Quarterly Progress Reports will be due after the initial award. If the project is not progressing on time, then alternative strategies for moving the project forward will need to be described. The SUD GC reserves the right to terminate funding for projects that are significantly delayed. All investigators selected to receive funding will also be expected to submit a Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project, detailing study findings, and all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded) relating to the project.

Pilot Research Projects: $8,000 maximum. Up to 5 awards will be made for pilot research projects submitted by faculty, staff, or postdoctoral fellows that address prevention, treatment, or policy research related to recreational cannabis legalization, expungement of substance use offenses, alcohol-related mortality, and/or drug overdose prevention. Basic science applications will also be considered.

To apply, submit the proposal as a single PDF (4 pages max., 11 pt Arial font, single spaced, 0.5" margins) to katiew@unm.edu by **5pm MDT November 12 2021**. See next page for instructions.

Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenge (SUD GC): Request for Proposals

Criminal Legal System Reform, Substance Use, and Alcohol/Overdose Mortality

Application Format (4 pages max, not including reference list, 11 pt Arial font, single spaced, 0.5" margins)

Submit the proposal as a single PDF with **bolded headings** as sections of your proposal. Please address *the text in italics* within each section of the proposal.

Project Title. *Please provide a brief title that characterizes the proposed project.*

Project Team. *Describe the members of the study team, including the Principal Investigator(s) (PI; multiple PIs are allowed for proposals), Co-Investigators (Co-I), and Collaborators. In describing the study team please provide the following information for all team members: Name; Title and Department; # of peer-reviewed publications; grant titles, total costs, and role of current funding as PI or Co-I (if no current funding, then # of former grants as PI or Co-I); and expertise relevant to the project. PI(s) must be faculty, staff, or postdocs employed by UNM.*

Project Aims. *Describe the critical need for the project and what will be implemented, developed, or studied. The specific aims/hypotheses should be described.*

Background for Proposed Project and Fit with the SUD GC. *Describe the scientific knowledge base that supports the proposed project, preliminary studies related to the project, and how the proposed project fits with the conceptual goals and aims of the SUD GC, particularly addresses problems related to recreational cannabis legalization, expungement related to substance use offenses, alcohol-related mortality prevention, and/or drug overdose prevention.*

Approach. *Describe what you plan to do in order to address the project aims and how you plan to address the aims. Outline the methods you propose and how they will achieve results. Detail the anticipated outcomes and a plan for alternative approaches if results are not achieved.*

Plan for Extramural Grant Funding. *Describe how the pilot project data will lead to an application for extramural grant or foundation funding. Priority will be given to applications that can articulate specific funding announcements that are relevant.*

Timeline. *Provide a timeline for starting and completing the project, as well as timing of completing project-specific milestones (e.g., IRB/IACUC submission, recruitment, etc.). All projects must be completed within one year from the award date. The SUD GC reserves the right to terminate funding for projects that are significantly delayed.*

Budget and Budget Justification. *Provide itemized budget, not to exceed $8,000, and detailed budget justification, with brief description of why each component of the itemized budget is essential to the project. Any unspent funds will be returned to the SUD GC index.*

Review process: Review criteria will be based on strength of the project team with respect to prior experience, scientific merit, preliminary work supporting the project, fit with the SUD GC aims, approach, and likelihood of leading to extramural funding. The review will be patterned after the NIH review process. Reviewers will be comprised of individuals internal and external to the SUD GC, and the number of reviewers will be determined by the number of proposals received. All proposals will be reviewed on a scale from 1-9, with 1 being the best. To apply, submit the proposal as a single PDF (4 pages max. (not including reference list), 11 pt Arial font, single spaced, 0.5" margins) to katiew@unm.edu by **5pm MDT November 12 2021**.