Rutgers-New York University Center for Asian Health Promotion and Excellence (CAHPE)

Call for Pilot Proposals: Request for Applications
Applications being accepted for rapid cycle 9 months NIH/NIMHD-funded Pilot-Study
Awards $35,000 each
Intend to fund this cycle across these two funding mechanisms
(A & B)

Application Mechanisms
A. Standard Application (standard): Early-Stage or New Investigator (ESI/NI*) initiated pilot proposal. Direct Costs Awarded: up to $35,000 **B. Community-Initiated Application (new):** a study proposal by an ESI/NI (contact PI) collaborating with a Community Researcher* (Co-PI) who will be supported by P50 Center Faculty member(s)*. Direct Costs Awarded: up to $35,000

*See Eligibility Section for detailed definition of ESI/NI, Community Researcher, P50 Center Faculty

Key dates:

Deadline for Application Submission: **September 15, 2025 8:00AM ET**
Award Decision: **October 3, 2025**
Anticipated Start: **October 6, 2025**

Important Program Details: Up to five pilot proposals will be funded in this cycle. This is a rapid-cycle, and proposals must be designed to be completed within 9 months from initiation to final deliverables, taking into account a 2 to 3-month period required to obtain IRB approval. Applicants should propose feasible timelines that align with this accelerated schedule.

Overview and Goals: Several chronic health diagnoses disproportionately impact U.S. Asians, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension. Many Asian subgroups have a higher prevalence of multiple chronic diseases, such as cardiometabolic diseases, compared to their non-Hispanic White counterparts.[1-6] However, health gaps are masked due to aggregation of Asian racial category; thus, there is a call for research to use disaggregated data.[2,7] The goal of our P50 Center for Asian Health Promotion and Excellence (CAHPE) is to promote health through multiple chronic disease (MCD) research especially in U.S. Asian adults. This will be accomplished through supporting small-scale projects on MCDs among U.S. Asians. Through these pilot projects, we aim to develop a pipeline of qualified researchers focused on Asian health outcomes in comorbid conditions. Pilot Project Awards will support collaborative projects conducting innovative research that focuses on the intersection of MCDs among Asians (comparative research between U.S. Asian adults and other populations also qualify). This research can span the disciplines of basic science, population studies, or social science. Projects can focus on primary data collection or secondary data analyses. Projects that include a pluralistic sample of Asian ethnicities and include sub-group analysis to reflect the heterogeneity of U.S. Asian adults are encouraged. For more information about the Center for Asian Health Promotion and Excellence (CAHPE, pronounced “cape”) and aims, please refer to our project description found here:
https://reporter.nih.gov/search/80pSSosUj06EVpOTLCRJfA/project-details/10915534

Pilot projects are expected to address determinants of health at two or more levels of influence (individual, interpersonal/organizations, community, societal) that are relevant to differences in health outcomes of MCDs among Asians preferably living in New Jersey/New York areas. All investigators will be strongly encouraged to use common data elements and measures that have been vetted through the NIH PhenX-Toolkit process, especially for social determinants of health (www.phenxtoolkit.org).

Eligibility

ESI/NI: All advanced post-doctoral fellows or early-stage or new investigators (at instructor, assistant, or associate professor level; see NIH definition at link: http://tinyurl.com/3x5czzrw) who are interested in becoming an independent investigator and pursuing research regarding gaps in health research among U.S. Asian children or adults are eligible to apply. Principal investigators who have previously received P50 pilot funding or who are current recipients of NIH R01-level or equivalent funding are **not** eligible for this funding mechanism. Scholars from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be academic or clinical researchers preferably based in the New York/New Jersey area. Applications which include a Letter of Support from a Community stakeholder or Community Based Organization will be prioritized.

Community Researcher: A community member who has experience as a community stakeholder and leader with Asian populations or a community member who is experiencing MCDs as a patient or patient's family member and are interested in pursuing health research among U.S. Asian children or adults are eligible to apply. Community members who are interested in applying must complete Community-Investigator training through NJ ACTS as described here: https://njacts.rbhs.rutgers.edu/community-scientist/. Applications from Multiple Principal Investigators (MPI), specifically an ESI/NI who provides leadership in developing specific aims, methodology and data analysis paired with a Community-Investigator who leads community engagement and dissemination of results are highly encouraged. Community members who are interested in applying should contact us before the LOI deadline to be paired with an ESI/NI and Center Faculty Member and to register for Community-Investigator Training at **cahpe@rutgers.edu**.

Center Faculty Member: A faculty member who is a member of the administrative, investigator development, or community engagement cores of the Rutgers-NYU Center for Asian Health Promotion and Excellence. A list of eligible faculty members can be found here: https://cahpe.rutgers.edu/?page_id=50

Full Application Guideline (Both Mechanisms): The application must include all sections outlined below. Cover Page and Abstract: On the cover page please include 1) the title of the project; 2) names, faculty ranks, and institutions of PI and all other co-investigators/collaborators/mentorship team; and 3) the PI's contact information (phone number and email address). Additionally, provide an abstract description of the proposed research project in layman's terms (250 words or fewer).

Research Proposal: The proposal should describe the research plan and should include 1) specific aims; 2) scientific significance and innovation; 3) preliminary studies; 4) research design and methods, including any analytic procedures; 5) limitations; 6) information on how the proposed project will lead to peer-reviewed funding; 7) plans for the PI's career development and mentorship; and 8) the added value that the proposed research brings to the Rutgers-NYU CAHPE and the U.S. Asian adult population. This section is limited to 3 pages (excluding

figures, tables and references. Appendix material will not be accepted. Proposals should be submitted using 11-point Arial font and no less than 0.5" margins.

Biosketches: Current NIH Biosketches (this should include all other funding sources) are required for the PI (co-PI, if any) and their primary mentor. Biosketches should be submitted on the most recent NIH Biographical Sketch Format or the ScienCV format (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/).

Budget: Requests NOT EXCEEDING the award amount should be submitted on the NIH budget form (can be accessed here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf), and budget justifications should be submitted to match the budget form. Outline major divisions of funds (personnel/effort support, equipment, supplies, other, etc.; and include adequate rationale in the budget justification). Funds should be used for research-related activities. All budget estimates include direct costs only. Indirect costs are unallowable. Please consult with the Office of Sponsored Programs of your Institution to confirm what the grant submission requirements are. Institutional matching funds are preferred, but not required, to cover additional effort or research related costs. Human Subjects portion: The applicant will provide written study protocols that address risks and protections for human subjects in accordance with NIH's Instructions for Preparing the Human Subjects Section of the Research Plan and specific plans for data and safety monitoring, if applicable. If IRB approval is necessary for the proposed research, approval will be required prior to receiving funding. Please include this in your 9-month timeline leaving enough time for potential modifications (IRB approval is not needed for the pilot application review).

Letters of Support: Your primary mentor must provide a letter of support for your application to show his/her commitment to your proposed study. In addition, if you are working with any community partners to recruit participants or collect data, please also include letter(s) of support from the relevant community partners.

Format: All items must be compiled and submitted as a single PDF file. Please number each page. All application submissions can be submitted by the investigator to our email: **cahpe@ifh.rutgers.edu** or through the Institution's Office of Sponsored Program. All inquiries related to this request for proposals should also be directed via email to: **cahpe@ifh.rutgers.edu.**

Application Deadline: **September 15, 2025, 8:00AM ET**

Pilot Proposal Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by designated review committees. Reviewers will assign a score on the overall application based on the following review criteria:

Significance: The project addresses MCDs involving U.S. Asian adults or comparative research between U.S. Asian adults and other populations. The aims of the project advance scientific knowledge, technical capability, and have near-term impact.

Innovation: The application utilizes novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Investigator(s): The PI, collaborators, and other key personnel have the necessary experience and expertise to accomplish the goals of the proposed research project. The investigators have complementary and integrated expertise.

Approach: The overall strategy, methodology, and analyses is well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project.

Career Development: There is a well thought-out and reasonable plan for career development of the junior investigator. Mentor(s) have been identified and the appropriate mechanisms are in place to achieve career development goals outlined. Potential for External Funding: There is a high likelihood that the proposed research project will lead to NIH or other types of foundation funding. There are common data elements (CDE) that should be incorporated as much as possible. These will be shared with awardees. Inquiries regarding our CAHPE and or this funding opportunity should be submitted via email **cahpe@ifh.rutgers.edu.**

References

1. Heron M. Deaths: Leading causes for 2017. National Vital Statistics Reports. 2019;68
2. Holland AT, Wong EC, Lauderdale DS, Palaniappan LP. Spectrum of cardiovascular diseases in Asian-American racial/ethnic subgroups. Annals of epidemiology. 2011;21(8):608-614.
3. Abesamis CJ, Fruh S, Hall H, Lemley T, Zlomke KR. Cardiovascular Health of Filipinos in the United States: A Review of the Literature. J Transcult Nurs. Sep 2016;27(5):518-28. doi:10.1177/1043659615597040
4. Gadgil MD, Anderson CA, Kandula NR, Kanaya AM. Dietary patterns in Asian Indians in the United States: an analysis of the metabolic syndrome and atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America study. J Acad Nutr Diet. Feb 2014;114(2):238-43. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2013.09.021
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6. Chen M, Hu J. Health disparities in Chinese Americans with hypertension: A review. Int J Nursing Sci. 2014;1:318-322.
7. Adia AC, Nazareno J, Operario D, Ponce NA. Health Conditions, Outcomes, and Service Access Among Filipino, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Adults in California, 2011-2017. Am J Public Health. Apr 2020;110(4):520-526. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2019.305523