



Hopkins Population Center

Lingxin Hao, Director
Emily Agree, Associate Director

A Special Call for HPC-IDIES Pilot Project Proposals

Hopkins Population Center (HPC) and The Hopkins' Institute for Data Intensive Engineering and Sciences (IDIES) seek to co-fund a pilot award. The proposal must address one of the HPC's primary research areas and the analytic strategies must include data science. This implies that at least one data source should be big data, where "big" is beyond what we usually consider a big n for sample sizes.

We will review proposals in two stages – The application will first be reviewed by a special committee of HPC Associates and then by the IDIES review committee. Given this is the final year of HPC's current award and funds must be spent by 8/31/2018 we have set a deadline of Oct 23, 2017.

All HPC Faculty Associates who do not have an active HPC pilot project are eligible. We encourage interdisciplinary teams, and in particular, we encourage junior Faculty Associates to act as PI.

Award requests of up to \$10,000 for a single-PI pilot and \$15,000 for a collaborative pilot (two co-PIs or a PI and a co-investigator) may be submitted. (Pilot project PIs, co-PIs, and co-investigators must be HPC Faculty Associates.)

Research on Population and Health Sciences

The HPC supports pilot research that will lead to a larger project in one of HPC's primary research areas:

- Poverty and Inequality
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Family, Maternal and Child Health
- Computational Population and Health Sciences

Application Priority

- Projects leading to an NICHD application, especially in substantive areas under the purview of the Population Dynamics Branch (PDB) ([click here](#))
- Interdisciplinary
- Early- or mid-career PIs; especially in collaboration with senior researchers

Pilot Grant Activities

Pilot project funds cannot be used for faculty salary support or travel to professional meetings. Funds must be spent in the United States, although the research could have an international focus.

Some examples of what funds could be used:

- To hire graduate student research assistants
- To conduct interviews or to assay biological samples

- To develop and field test a questionnaire
- To purchase access to a proprietary dataset
- To acquire necessary skills by participating in a short training program

Pilot-to-NICHD Process and Final Report

In order to assist recipients in developing grant applications, the HPC, through the Scientific Core, will provide methodological support. Email the HPC Director Dr. Lingxin Hao (hao@jhu.edu) for a plan tailored to the project's needs. A final report is due within 30 days of the project's end, with a focus on how the pilot funds have aided in the development of research proposals.

Contact Us

We encourage Associates who are interested in applying to contact Lingxin Hao, Director (hao@jhu.edu), Emily Agree, Associate Director (Emily.Agree@jhu.edu), or Andy Cherlin, Development Core Director (Cherlin@jhu.edu) to discuss their ideas for projects.

Application Guidelines

All proposals should include the following sections:

1. Title and abstract (<=1 page)
2. Specific Aims (<=1 page)
3. Proposal narrative (2-3 pages)
 - a) brief background and significance
 - b) research design and methods
 - c) key personnel
 - d) timeline
4. Budget and budget justification
5. Appendix: current NIH biosketch or CV for key personnel

Review

See the above description for this special call.

Human Subjects

After an applicant is selected for a pilot grant, she or he will need to submit a human-subject plan similar to the human subjects section of an NIH application and to receive approval from a JHU IRB. It will then be submitted to NICHD for human subjects approval. Awarded projects can begin as soon as human subjects approval is obtained from NICHD. In addition, the four questions below must be answered for any study involving human subjects, even if exempt, so that we may determine if it meets the NIH definition of a [clinical trial](#).

1. Does the study involve human participants?
2. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
3. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
4. Is the effect being evaluated a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?