Call for Pilot Project Proposals Co-Sponsored by HPC and Three JHU Entities

The Hopkins Population Center (HPC) and three JHU entities – Alliance for a Healthier World (AHW), the 21st Century Cities Initiative (21CC), and the Institute for Data Intensive Engineering and Science (IDIES) – jointly call for pilot project proposals. The total number of awards is three as listed below:

1. An HPC-AHW co-sponsored pilot project that addresses one or more HPC's primary research areas[1] and a health equity challenge that falls under one of the four thematic areas with a focus on low-income countries. See AHW homepage and thematic areas.
2. An HPC-21CC co-sponsored pilot project that tackles one or more HPC's primary research areas and 21CC's emphasis on urban social inequality and neighborhood transformation. See 21CC homepage.
3. An HPC-IDIES co-sponsored pilot study that investigates one or more HPC's primary research areas and uses data intensive research strategies. See IDIES homepage.

We especially encourage applications from multidisciplinary teams headed by an early-stage investigator with a senior mentor and other experts from different fields. We will review proposals in two stages –applications to each pair of co-sponsors will first be reviewed by an Ad Hoc committee of three reviewers who are HPC Associates and then by the respective co-sponsor review committee. The deadline of this RFA is COB Friday November 30, 2018.

Award Amount
Award requests can be up to $15,000 for a one-year period. The HPC-AHW award has an additional contingency: if the investigators can obtain an additional $5,000 in support from other sources, the AHW will match it so that the total amount becomes $25,000.

Application Priority
- Projects leading to an application to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), especially in substantive areas under the purview of the Population Dynamics Branch of NICHD (click here)
- Projects that are multidisciplinary
- Projects with early- or mid-career PIs; especially in collaboration with senior researchers

Pilot Grant Use
Pilot project funds cannot be used for faculty salary support or travel to professional meetings. Some examples of what funds could be used:

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[1] The three primary research areas of HPC include (1) Poverty and Inequality, (2) Sexual and Reproductive Health, and (3) Family, Maternal and Child Health.

- To hire graduate student research assistants
- To conduct interviews and transcribe or code the data that is collected
- To assay biological samples
- To develop and field test a questionnaire
- To purchase access to a proprietary dataset
- For partial support of a data scientist and/or data handling hardware

To Prepare for a Response to this RFA
Email HPC Director Dr. Lingxin Hao (hao@jhu.edu), Associate Director Dr. Stephane Helleringer (sheller7@jhu.edu), and Development Core Director Dr. Andrew Cherlin (cherlin@jhu.edu) for a discussion on how to prepare for an application.

Deadline of this RFA
Please submit proposals to HPC Associate Director Stephane Helleringer (sheller7@jhu.edu) by **November 30, 2018**.

Mid-Term/Final Reports and Pilot-to-NICHD Process
In order to assist recipients in developing grant applications, the HPC, through the Development Core and the Scientific Core, will provide substantive and methodological support to pilot awardees. A mid-term report is due six months into the project and a final report is due within 30 days of the project's end. The report must include how the pilot project provides opportunities to prove a concept, conduct preliminary analysis, and accumulate lessons to learn. We expect awardees are committed to developing a directly related or indirectly related external NICHD research proposal (e.g., R03, R21, R01).

Application Guidelines
All proposals should include the following sections:
1. Title and abstract (150 words)
2. Proposal narrative (2.5-3 pages)
   (a) Specific aims
   (b) Brief background and significance
   (c) Research design and methods
   (d) Key personnel
   (e) Timeline
3. Budget and budget justification
4. Appendix: current NIH biosketch for each key personnel

Human Subjects
After an applicant is selected for a pilot award, she or he will need to submit an IRB approval of the project before the research starts.