



Integrating Special Populations Pilot Award Request for Applications

About Frontiers

The Frontiers Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Kansas is a regional initiative involving academic institutions, healthcare systems, and community organizations that address the clinical and translational research needs of Kansas and western Missouri. Frontiers supports high quality clinical and translational science innovation in research methods and training and career development of investigators committed to improving health and achieving health equity across the lifespan, with a focus on underserved and excluded populations.

Integrating Special Populations (ISP) Pilot Program provides grant funding and other support for clinical and translational research across a broad range of scientific disciplines. The objective of this pilot program is to support new and innovative ideas that will lead to externally funded awards. The Frontiers ISP Pilot Award addresses this goal by providing funds to help investigators carry out early-stage research addressing our primary aims 1) Improve health outcomes across the lifespan through multidisciplinary, multi-organizational teams that include patients, caregivers, clinicians, scientists, and other stakeholders and 2) Improve rare disease health outcomes by leveraging input from all stakeholders in study design.

Summary

Awarding Organization	Frontiers: Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Federal Prime Sponsor	National Institutes of Health (NIH) / National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS); Award number UL1TR002366
Key Dates	Full Application Deadline: July 26, 2023, 5:00 pm Merit Review Completion: August 7, 2023 Award Announcement: Week of August 7, 2023 NCATS Prior Approval Process: August 14-31, 2023 Estimated Earliest Project Start Date: September 30, 2023
Award Amount	Maximum award: \$25,000
Maximum Award Period	September 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Number of Awards	Up to 1 award
Review criteria	Proposals will be reviewed using NIH-style review process and other stated review criteria.
Contact Information	Carolyn Vivian, MS, Integrating Special Populations Navigator (cvivian@kumc.edu)



Topic Areas

Frontiers ISP Pilot Awards support multidisciplinary translational research projects that address all diseases.

- Consequences of Maternal-Fetal-Child, and Adolescent disorders and socio-economic disparities on the health of adults and older adults.
- Supporting Transitions of Care from childhood to young adult and adult to older adult.
- Incorporating participants who are older adults or rural residents in drug and other intervention development and testing.
- Addressing unique challenges of rare diseases and improving access to care and other resources for families in rural and underserved communities.

Eligibility

This is open to principal investigators who are eligible to receive federal funding and employed by any Frontiers partner institution:

- University of Kansas Medical Center (all campuses)
- University of Kansas
- University of Kansas Health System
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Kansas City University
- Children's Mercy Kansas City
- St. Luke's Health System
- Kansas State University

Principal Investigators (PIs) are allowed to apply for more than one funding mechanism but will only be awarded one award annually. Applicants may serve as PI on only one application but may be included as collaborators on any number of applications.

Applications are invited from multidisciplinary teams comprised of faculty investigators from Frontiers partner institutions.

Applications must describe projects that will be completed within Frontiers Year 2 funding cycle (ends June 30, 2024). All funding decisions and actual start dates for ISP Pilot Awards are contingent on receipt of the NCATS Notice of Award for Year 2 and official approval from NCATS when applicable.

Application Requirements

Frontiers membership is required for submitting applications. [Become a member](#) and learn about member benefits!

Full Proposals: Applications must be saved as a single PDF in the order outlined below. **Applications must be emailed to Carolyn Vivian (cvivan@kumc.edu) by 5:00 pm, July 26, 2023.** Required naming convention of Application packet: *PILastNameFirstInitial_ISP*. Proposals must use Arial 11 font, 0.5-inch margins.

1. **Research Plan:** should include the following sections and should not exceed 6 pages.
 - a. Specific Aims (1 page)
 - b. Research Strategy (5 pages, excluding references)
 - i. Significance
 - ii. Investigator(s)
 - iii. Innovation mapped to one of the 4 eligible areas
 - iv. Approach
 - c. References (only include crucial references; no page limit, not included in the 6-page limit)



- Budget:** Applicants may request up to \$25,000; lesser amounts are acceptable and encouraged especially if the Frontiers ISP Pilot Award can be used to match or leverage additional resources. Budget may NOT be used for PI salary.

All funds must be spent by June 30, 2024; no carry-over and no-cost extensions are allowed.

The following costs are not covered by these awards:

- Non-Frontiers institution staff salaries (with the exception of required consultants, if justified)
- Administrative or office costs (e.g., office supplies, telephone, etc.)
- Meals or hospitality (e.g., food, beverages, or alcohol)
- Travel that is not directly related to the conduct of research
- Other items typically supported by Facilities and Administration costs
- Facilities and Administration costs. These awards are direct costs only

- NIH Biographical Sketch:** Include for all Key Personnel, [use the current NIH format](#).
- IRB/IACUC Submission:** IRB or IACUC submission correspondence, approval, or IRB determination that the project is 'Not Human Subjects Research' are required with full application submission.

Review Process

Full proposals will be reviewed by a peer review team comprised of leadership of the Frontiers ISP, CTSI Pilot Leadership and Community Stakeholders. Selection will be confirmed by a leadership group that represents all the institutional partners of Frontiers.

Applications will be reviewed and scored using NIH review criteria by at least three reviewers. Applicants will receive a summary statement describing strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. The review criteria described below will be considered in the review process.

• Significance

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project rigorous? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

• Investigator

Is the PI well suited to the project? If early-stage investigators or those in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? Does the team include appropriate involvement of community members?

• Innovation

To what extent are innovative methods evident, such as experimental approaches to identify best practices in translational research; workforce education and training; and stakeholder outreach?

• Approach

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy



establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

- **Potential of pilot to result in future funding and publication**

Is there evidence that successful completion of the pilot will competitively position the PI for an NIH award? For an impactful publication?

- **Overall Impact**

Overall Impact is the synthesis/integration of the review criteria as well as the relevance of the budget (and budget justification) for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved.

Additional Application Guidance

Notice of Proprietary Information: Applicants are discouraged from submitting information considered proprietary unless it is deemed essential for proper evaluation of the full application. Applications containing information that constitutes trade secrets, that is financial or commercial, or that is confidential or privileged, should identify the pages that contain this information by marking those paragraphs or lines with an asterisk (*) at the beginning of the paragraph.

Funding Decision and Notice of Award

Applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of review. Successful applications may need to be submitted to NCATS for official prior approval, which must be received before release of funds and any public announcements.

Post Award Requirement for Award Recipients

Funded awardees are required to partner with the Frontiers ISP Navigator, who will provide project management support, including the development and execution of project plans, submission of materials to Frontiers for review and approval by NCATS (if required), as well as preparation and submission of mid-year and final progress reports. They are also required to provide details of all published manuscripts, meeting abstracts, and grant applications that result from data obtained from Pilot awards.

Awardees are required to provide mid-term and final progress reports. Details of all published manuscripts, meeting abstracts, and grant awards that result from data obtained from pilot grants should be included in the reports. Report templates will be provided.

It is essential that study outcomes are disseminated – to both the scientific and lay communities; therefore, Frontiers expects awardees will disseminate the findings of their research to scientific venues, including peer-reviewed manuscripts, and to community groups as appropriate. We will highlight projects at the Frontiers Annual Research Symposium, where you will be required to present a poster and may be asked to give an oral presentation. You will receive information about the meeting well in advance for your planning purposes. You may be asked to present your work at additional venues and meetings.

All publications and presentations must acknowledge NIH grant support arising from any research project that used Frontiers resources. [Learn how to cite Frontiers here.](#)

Contact for Additional Information

Carolyn Vivian, MS, ISP Navigator (cvivian@kumc.edu)

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