



Funding Opportunity Announcement FY2022 February 17, 2021

Miami CTSI Mission

The mission of the Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is to be indispensable as the scientific home for clinical and translational (C/T) research, transforming University research infrastructure to advance excellence in culturalized C/T research.

Purpose of the CTSI Pilot Awards

Pilot projects are expected to generate publications and data for **external funding**. In alignment with the Miami CTSI mission, Pilot funds are meant to support highly innovative, translational, interdisciplinary, and health disparities-oriented research proposals that are:

- **Directly related to health disparities** and racial/ethnic minority health, or addressing challenges in health areas that disproportionately affect racial/ethnic minorities, and/or
- **Multi-disciplinary projects**, where the Principal Investigator (PI) and (at least) one co-investigator are from different fields of expertise, and/or

Meritorious and competitive proposals submitted by women and/or individuals from racial and ethnic groups **underrepresented in sciences and medicine** might receive special consideration.

Number of Awards, Funding Amount & Award Period

The CTSI Pilot Program will award up to **four (4)** meritorious projects of **up to \$40K each**. The Pilot funds are intended to be flexible and can be used to fit a variety of scientific needs. Faculty salary is not allowable.

The award period is 12 months, from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. The projects are expected to be completed within the award period. No-Cost-Extension (NCE) will not be available.

Funds Available and Budgetary Limitations:

Awards will be up to **\$40K each** (NIH [allowable direct costs](#)). Indirect costs or overhead will **not** be awarded under the CTSI Pilot Program.

All efforts must be made to use UM equipment and services when available. Proposed budgets requesting support for equipment and/or outside UM services will require a robust budget justification at proposal phase.

Letter of Intent (LOI) & Full Application

Proposal submission is a two-step process that requires both a **Letter of Intent** and a **full application**, both submitted electronically. The [LOI](#) is a structured questionnaire. Submissions that are incomplete or otherwise do not follow instructions will not be considered for review.

Applicants will be **invited** to submit their full application based on eligibility criteria and on the potential scientific merit of the proposed research presented in the LOI.

Deadlines and Award Timeline

RFA issued	February 17, 2021
Infosession (optional)	February 26, 2021 (4PM-5PM) <i>Zoom info to be communicated</i>
Letter of Intent (LOI) due	March 10, 2021 at 11:59PM
Invitation to submit full application	March 17, 2021
Full application (<u>invited applicants only</u>)	April 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM
Funding decisions	July 2021
Award period	September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

For additional details about the Pilots Program, visit the [Miami CTSI website](#).

Applicant Eligibility

All eligibility criteria must be met **as of date of submission** (April 28, 2021).

- Only full-time faculty at the ranks of Assistant or Associate Professors are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators. Full Professors may apply as collaborators, but the Principal Investigator must be a junior faculty.
- Jackson Health System and the Miami VA full-time faculty may apply, with at least one full-time UM faculty collaborator.
- Residents, instructors, staff, post-doctoral and clinical fellows are **not** eligible.

Project Eligibility

- The research supported by this program must be **translational in nature**. Basic research projects are not eligible. For detailed information, visit [NCATS Translational Spectrum page](#).
- Research projects conducted outside of the U.S. (fully or partially) will not be considered for review.
- Only new applications and first resubmissions to any UM internal award mechanism are allowed.

Types of Fundable Projects

The Miami CTSI encourages faculty to submit proposals that deal with:

- Health Disparities: directly related to health disparities and racial/ethnic minority health or addressing challenges in health areas that disproportionately affect racial/ethnic minorities.
- Informatics, Data & Diagnostics: novel informatics, diagnostics, data capture tools, analytics, work on Data Trusts, patient-reported data methods.
- Special Populations Novel Methods: novel methods to engage and recruit underserved populations of all ages, research dissemination strategies.
- Translation to Care: studies on barriers to translating research knowledge to care/policy; obstacles to team-based research.

Evaluation Criteria

The scientific and technical merit of the proposals will be evaluated using the [NIH peer review criteria](#): significance, innovation, and approach. Miami CTSI priorities will be carefully considered.

Review and Selection Process

All applicants will receive feedback on their proposal. The CTSI Pilot award review process is a two-tier process:

- (1) All invited applications will undergo:
 - Scientific and technical merit review by reviewers selected by the CTSI Pilot Program Leadership.
 - Biostatistics, Ethics, and/or Regulatory Review: at the discretion of the CTSI Pilot Director and/or reviewers.
 - Budget review by CTSI fiscal team.
- (2) Applications within the funding range will undergo a programmatic review by the CTSI Executive Committee.

General Information on available research services

- **Biostatistics Consults are MANDATORY.** Applicants are required to meet with the Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC) before their final application is submitted.
- The [CTSI Fiscal Team](#) will be available by appointment for one pre-application budget consultation to ensure that the proposed costs are allowable and reflective of the proposed project needs.
- **Budget Preparation Consults and Regulatory Consults** by the CTSI team are available.

NCATS Prior Approval

All Miami CTSI Pilots projects involving human subjects and/or live vertebrate animals **must receive approval from NCATS prior to the involvement of human subjects and/or live vertebrate animals.**

NCATS prior approval cannot be obtained without valid IRB/IACUC approval documentation. For more information on NCATS Prior Approval, click [here](#).

Note: There may be opportunities for awards to be co-sponsored/co-funded in partnership with another entity at UM (e.g., UM schools/colleges, academic departments, and Centers of Excellence such as Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center). These opportunities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may require applicants to provide additional information prior to funding approval.