CTSI Trustworthiness Seed Funding Opportunity

Request for Applications (RFA)

(Issue Date: September 24, 2024 | Updated: October 8, 2024)

Mandatory feasibility consultation
with CASE Director Dr. Denise Vidot – *No later than November 4, 2024*

OVERVIEW

The University of Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is excited to release this Request for Applications (RFA) aimed at enhancing trustworthiness between academic and community partners. The goal is to deploy effective partnership strategies that enhance trust and create impactful relationships, leading to productive initiatives that address health issues holistically and support further studies involving community, patient, or partner engagement.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Miami CTSI is to catalyze the development, demonstration, and dissemination of scientific discoveries to improve the health of our community, address health disparities, and promote health equity. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement (CASE) module of the CTSI facilitates long-term participatory research collaboration with the community. It assists investigators in conducting community-engaged research, offers advice, and provides training in community-based participatory, minority health, and health disparities research. Through this funding initiative, CASE seeks to address issues impacting underserved communities by building and developing trust between academic and community partners.

The issue of trustworthiness in research is a persistent challenge and often a major barrier to organizations working meaningfully and bidirectionally with community partners. Trustworthiness involves consistently earning the trust of community members through transparent, respectful, and equitable interactions. This includes actively involving communities in decision-making processes and ensuring their voices are heard and valued.

To further enhance efforts to address trustworthiness, the [Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Center for Health Justice](#) launched an initiative centered on ten overarching principles towards establishing and enhancing trustworthiness. The [AAMC Trustworthiness Toolkit](#) provides guidelines and resources for building and maintaining trust which can be applied to community-academic research partnerships. The toolkits offer honest community perspectives on important issues and suggest ways for academic health centers to become better community partners. They are not confined to a single method of use, but rather are designed to provide different pathways for deployment, allowing for flexibility and adaptability to the specific needs and contexts of the community partners.

PURPOSE

The CTSI Trustworthiness Seed Funding Opportunity has the primary goal of enhancing community-academic collaborations between the University of Miami and community partners. The purpose of this RFA is to deploy the AAMC trustworthiness framework with academic research teams and community organizations who already have an ongoing partnership. The RFA aims to ensure that the deployment of the trustworthiness framework is effective, inclusive, and beneficial to all involved parties. It also aims to bridge the trust gap by promoting transparency, mutual understanding, and collaborative decision-making.

AWARD DETAILS and REQUIREMENTS

Award Amount: $5,000

Number of Awards intended to be funded: 2-3

Award length: 12 months

The application is open to all faculty at the University of Miami possessing the necessary skills and experience to carry out the project. Others interested in applying should contact Angelica Agati (see below).

Eligible applications must include at least one community partner (defined as a community organization or public agency) and ideally not more than two community partners.

Applicants are required to use the AAMC toolkit in their proposals. Prior to applying, applicants and community partners should familiarize themselves with the AAMC toolkit and resources including the video guide, interactive discussion guide, community engagement action guide, and reflection guide, which are designed to help users translate the 10 Principles of Trustworthiness into actionable steps. These can be accessed HERE .

Projects must focus on building community trust through engagement, transparency, cultural competence and partnership. In preparing proposals, applicants should consider the following:

- Clear plans are required. Investigators and community partners are expected to collaboratively devise a strategy outlining the use of the toolkit.
- Activities should not be a one-time event. Over the course of the 12-month grant period, ongoing engagement is expected.
- Teams will be expected to fill out a survey two times during the award period. The survey will be administered centrally by the Miami CTSI and is de-identified.

Prior to submission, the applicant partnership (UM faculty and community partner) must reach out to CASE Director, Dr. Denise Vidot, for a mandatory discussion regarding the suitability and feasibility of their proposal ideas. This conversation must take place no later than Monday, **November 4, 2024. Email your consultation request.**

DEADLINES & AWARD TIMELINE

Information session	October 21, 2024 at 5:30 pm – REGISTER HERE
Application due date	November 11, 2024
Award notifications	December 10, 2024
Award start	January 2025

HOW TO APPLY:

The application is submitted online and consists of 10 project-specific questions with approximately 200-500 words expected in response to each question.

Apply Here - https://redcap.miami.edu/surveys/?s=XJY499JFPJAN9PDJ

Due date for all applications is November 11, 2024. No late applications will be accepted.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Applications will undergo review by both community and academic experts who have experience in community-engaged research. This ensures a comprehensive evaluation from diverse perspectives. Reviewers need tangible information to make informed decisions. Therefore, applicants should submit clear, detailed materials that present their project effectively. This includes providing relevant data, methodologies, and outcomes.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For any questions, inquiries, or additional information please contact:

CASE Director: Denise Vidot, Ph.D. (dvidot@med.miami.edu)

For any administrative, budget and / or general questions please contact:

Program Manager: Angelica Agati (axr3115@med.miami.edu)