Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention  
An NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence

2019 Pilot Study Funding Announcement

**Pilot Proposal Submission Deadline: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, October 30, 2018**

The Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention (CCOP) is pleased to announce the following Pilot Study funding opportunity. Applications will be accepted from Wednesday, September 26 – Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Before submitting an application, please carefully review all information and instructions contained in this announcement. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Center PI/Director, Dr. Judy Weber at WeberJudithL@uams.edu or 501-364-3382 before working on their application to determine if the idea fits with the Center theme.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention was established in 2016 with a $9.4 million NIH Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant award. The grant is part of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program aimed at building research capacity in states that have historically low levels of NIH funding. COBRE programs focus on the professional development of the nation’s most promising junior investigators through targeted senior mentoring and investment in critical infrastructure improvements.

The mission of the Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention is to address the problem of childhood obesity through the funding and support of investigational studies along the full translational continuum, including basic, developmental inquiry to clinical studies and direct translation into the community. The immediate goal is to prevent the rise in Arkansas childhood obesity rates, with an ultimate goal of reducing obesity rates significantly over the next ten years.

Examples of topics that fit with the mission of the Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral and physiological phenotypes, such as individual differences in appetite, food preference, temperament, self-regulation and other factors related to excessive weight gain that may predict obesity development and/or treatment response.
- Infant and early childhood feeding practices, sleep, physical activity or sedentary behaviors that may influence weight gain and risk for obesity.
- Family and caregiver aspects that may influence weight gain, such as parenting style, teaching style, responsiveness to infant/child/teen needs, stress, and other psychosocial characteristics.
- Emerging obesity risk factors, including the hormonal milieu, microbiome, and epigenetic modifications.
- Development and/or validation of methods to assess body composition, dietary intake/composition, and physical activity/sedentary behaviors as well as sleep duration and quality in infants, children or adolescents.
- Identification of components of the maternal diet, caloric levels of nutrient supply, timing of nutritional restriction/excess during gestation and lactation, or combinations thereof, which predispose towards development of obesity in the mother postpartum and the offspring during development.
- Assess interventions that target modifiable factors in the maternal pre- and post-natal environment
which may modulate genetic susceptibility to obesity. These factors may include psychosocial stressors, maternal behaviors such as smoking, alcohol or substance abuse, exposure to infectious and pharmacological agents, management of co-morbidities, sleep habits, timing and patterns of infant feeding, and child rearing practices.

- Preventive health practices that may override obesity-predisposing non-modifiable factors such as birth order, ethnicity, age and parity.
- Studies of novel interventions for prevention and treatment of obesity in children and/or adults, including: modification of dietary practices or eating environments; strength training, aerobic conditioning, or other modifications of physical activity and sedentary behavior; modification of relevant associated behaviors, neurocognitive functions, and psychosocial influences that affect eating and physical activity patterns or environmental conditions that may have an impact upon energy balance.
- Studies to identify behavioral, neuro-cognitive, psychosocial, and/or environmental factors that motivate or promote adherence to dietary or physical activity behaviors for obesity prevention or treatment.
- Studies to explore social marketing approaches for promoting eating behaviors and increased physical activity aimed at weight control.
- Intervention studies that employ community-based participatory research strategies for obesity prevention.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicant eligibility to apply is based on the following:

Only individuals who have not had an external, peer-reviewed NIH Research Project Grant (RPG) or Program Project Grant (PPG) or equivalent from either a federal or non-federal source as the named principal investigator (PI) are eligible.

- If named as co-Investigator, collaborator, consultant or other non-PI role, an individual is qualified.
- If PI on training/mentored grants, an individual is qualified (e.g. AREA, R15, R03, R21, K01, K08)
- If PI on an NIH R01, P01, or NSF or equivalent award as PI an individual does not qualify.
- Applicant must hold a faculty appointment (i.e. postdocs, other non-independent faculty do not qualify).
- For eligibility questions, please contact Dr. Judy Weber at WeberJudithL@uams.edu.

In addition, applicants are also chosen based on the following selection criteria:

- **Must be an Arkansas Children’s Research Institute (ACRI) Investigator.**
- **Must have a Letter of Support (LOS) from Department Chair** *(see instructions on page 3 of this document for the LOS)*
- Demonstrates evidence of a fundable, independent area of research interest that fits with the theme of the Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention.
- Demonstrates evidence of grant writing experience.
- Demonstrates an emerging peer-reviewed publications record.

PILOT STUDY FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- Project periods are for 12 months. A second 12-month period can be applied for if needed and sufficient progress was made during the first project period.
- Maximum budget per 12-month period is up to $75K total costs. Budgets may include up to 10% of direct costs for PI salary support.
- Other allowable costs include staff support, materials and supplies, travel, publications costs, and subject incentives.
- Questions regarding allowable costs on budgets can be directed to Joy Moix, Budget Manager, at MoixJoy@uams.edu.
PILOT STUDY PROPOSAL APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Before preparing and submitting an application, all applicants should visit the CCOP Project Registration page at https://base.uams.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=JHXFHE33DP for a list of available core services and to register with the Biostatistics and Informatics Core. Note: all applicants are required to register with the Biostatistics and Informatics Core and meet with a CCOP Biostatistician for proposal development assistance.

Applicants should register with the Metabolism Core, if applicable, and other services they anticipate needing if their proposal is selected for funding. All Core services are available free of charge to applicants and funded/supported CCOP junior investigators.

All applicants are required to upload their full NIH proposal application into the CCOP Grant Review and Scoring System for review and scoring by our Pilot Study Scientific Review Committee. The proposal application must be submitted in the CCOP Grant Review and Scoring System no later than 12:00 pm (Central Time) on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Note: All documents, templates and forms required are available for download by clicking on the Documents Tab at the top of the screen when you are logged in to the CCOP Grant Review and Scoring System. An application preparation checklist is also available for download.

Logging In

Internal Users (i.e. UAMS faculty)
Click on the following link and use your UAMS username and password to log in https://apps.uams.edu/ObesityPrevention/GrantScoring/

External Users (i.e. anyone who does not have a UAMS email address)
If you do not have a UAMS email address, please contact Jami Jones at JLJones@uams.edu to request access to the system. Once you have access, you will receive an email with your username, a temporary password and a direct link to the system. When you click on the link, the system will first prompt you to change your password. After you do that, you will be able to log in with your assigned username and password that you choose.

Submitting your Department Chair Letter of Support (LOS)

1. Log in to the system using the above log in instructions
2. Click on the tab at the top of the screen that says Submit Application
3. Fill out the submission form and then upload a PDF of your Department Chair LOS (note: for Cycle, please select Phase 1, Round 3)
4. Click the blue button that says Upload Letter of Intent
5. You will then receive an email stating that your LOS has been submitted.
6. Your LOS will be reviewed and you will receive an approval email within 1 business day to move forward in submitting your full proposal application using the steps below.

Submitting your Full Proposal Application

1. Log in to the system using your username and password
2. Click the blue button on the right side of the screen that says Submit Full Application
3. Complete the fields that are not pre-populated
   - **Project Type**: Select Pilot
   - **Requested Budget for Year 1**: Enter total budget (Direct + Indirect Costs)
   - **Requested Budget for Year 2**: Enter n/a
   - **IRB/IACUC Information**: If you have it, enter the IRB or IACUC information requested. Select not yet approved, if you do not have the information.

4. Combine your documents in the following order and create one PDF document. *(if you need help with this step, please contact Jami Jones at [JLJones@uams.edu](mailto:JLJones@uams.edu) or 501-364-5113)*

   **Formatting for all documents is 0.5” margins, single spaced, 11 pt. Arial font, left justification.**

For specific instructions on how to complete the PHS 398 Forms listed below, please refer to the NIH PHS 398 Instruction Guide located at [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf)

☐ Face Page (Please note that per the NIH PHS 398 instructions, your study title cannot exceed 81 characters, including spaces and punctuation.)

☐ Project Summary Page

☐ Specific Aims (1 page in length, use the continuation page template for this section)

☐ Research Plan (6 page max, use the continuation page template for this section)

☐ References, use the continuation page, no page limit for references

☐ Human Subjects Clinical Trials Information Form
   **Note**: Even if your study does not involve human subjects, this section is required for the application.


   If you need additional assistance with the Human Subjects Clinical Trials Information Form, please contact Jami Jones at [JLJones@uams.edu](mailto:JLJones@uams.edu) or 501-364-5113.

☐ NIH Biographical Sketch of PI (please use current NIH approved format)

☐ Detailed Budget Spreadsheet with Budget Justification. For questions regarding the use of the budget spreadsheet, please contact Joy Moix at [MoixJoy@uams.edu](mailto:MoixJoy@uams.edu) or 501-364-2769. For questions about budget content, please contact Dr. Weber at [WeberJudithL@uams.edu](mailto:WeberJudithL@uams.edu) or 501-364-3382 or Jami Jones at [JLJones@uams.edu](mailto:JLJones@uams.edu) or 501-364-5113.

☐ **UAMS** IRB Approval Letter or a letter from the UAMS IRB stating that your study is determined as NOT human subjects research (You **must** have IRB approval or documentation that IRB oversight is not required before NIGMS will release funding.) For IRB related questions, please contact Jami Jones at [JLJones@uams.edu](mailto:JLJones@uams.edu) or 501-364-5113.
   
   *For investigators who are **not** affiliated with UAMS, please contact Jami Jones for assistance with the UAMS IRB Submission.*

☐ Human Subjects Education Training (i.e. CITI training)

☐ If your project is a clinical trial, you will also submit a Good Clinical Practice Training certificate (i.e. CITI GCP training)

☐ IACUC approval and Vertebrate Animal Section (if applicable)
Note: If you have supplemental documentation to enhance your application (i.e. letters of support), please include the documents in your application packet.

5. Upload your full application by clicking the blue **Upload Full Application** button
6. You will receive an email stating that your application has been received

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<th>CCOP Pilot Study RFA Timeline</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, September 26 – Tuesday, October 30, 2018</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, November 15, 2018</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, November 20, 2018</strong></td>
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Please direct any additional questions to Jami Jones at **JLJones@uams.edu** or 501-364-5113.