

**Deans, Assoc. Deans for Research, Directors, and Department Heads:
Please forward this information to the appropriate faculty immediately.**

Institutional Limit on Proposal Submissions

**National Institutes of Health
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)**

Recovery Act Limited Competition: NCMHD Dissertation Research Award to Increase Diversity (R36)

Request for Applications (RFA) Number: RFA-MD-09-008

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MD-09-008.html>

LIMITED SUBMISSION – ONE (1) PER INSTITUTION

Letters of Intent Receipt Date(s): May 29, 2009

Although a letter of intent is not required, is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows IC staff to estimate and plan for the potential review workload.

NOTE: On-time submission requires that applications be successfully submitted to Grants.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. local time (of the applicant institution/organization).

Application Due Date(s): June 30, 2009

Below is information about the National Institutes of Health, NCMHD Dissertation Research Award to Increase Diversity (R36) for 2009. NIH limits the number of proposals an organization can submit, as described above. Therefore, if the number of preproposals exceeds that limit (1), an internal review will be conducted to determine which proposals will be submitted from Mississippi State University.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to the NIH, a preproposal that includes the information listed below must be submitted to the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED), electronically to Sandra Harpole at sharpole@research.msstate.edu and copied to Katie Echols at kechols@research.msstate.edu in the ORED office by **5 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2009**. A committee of faculty members will screen applications and select the nominee to represent the University.

All preproposals must include:

1. Title of proposal
2. PI/Co-PI name and unit affiliation
3. Number and title of funding opportunity
4. One paragraph providing a brief description of the proposed activities.

Synopsis of Program:

The primary objective of this FOA, issued by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), is to increase the health disparities research workforce by stimulating and supporting dissertation research. Dissertation research involves a major investment of the doctoral student's time, energy, and interest and its substance is often the basis for launching a research career. Lack of financial support during this phase of training can delay completion of the dissertation project. The NCMHD Dissertation Research grant will provide full-time salary support and modest research funds for up to two years for eligible students to facilitate completion of their doctoral research project and dissertation in a research area relevant to the NCMHD mission and research priorities. These awards are available to all qualified pre-doctoral students in accredited research doctoral programs in the United States (including Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories or possessions). Eligible students must have the goal of becoming successful investigators in areas of biomedical or behavioral science relevant to the mission of the NCMHD.

The NCMHD, as part of the NIH, recognizes a unique and compelling need to promote diversity in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences research workforce. The NIH expects efforts to diversify the workforce to lead to:

- the recruitment of the most talented researchers from all groups;
- an improvement in the quality of the educational and training environment;
- a balanced perspective in the determination of research priorities;
- an improved capacity to recruit subjects from diverse backgrounds into clinical research protocols; and
- an improved capacity to address and eliminate health disparities.

Although the NIH currently provides multiple opportunities to develop research careers and improve participation for individuals from groups with low representation in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, reports from the National Science Foundation (NSF) (see <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/>) and others provide strong evidence that diversity remains an important problem that the entire research enterprise must actively address.

Recent studies have supported the argument that diversity enhances the quality of education in multiple settings. Studies have also suggested that racially and culturally concordant scientific staff may be more successful in recruiting research participants from underrepresented groups into clinical trials.

This dissertation research award announcement is intended to stimulate the participation of individuals from the following groups:

- A. individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups;
- B. individuals with disabilities; and

C. individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research.

The mission of the NCMHD is to promote minority health and to lead, coordinate, support, and assess the NIH effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities. In this effort NCMHD conducts and supports basic, clinical, social, and behavioral research, promote research infrastructure and training, foster emerging programs, disseminate information, and reach out to minority and other health disparity communities.

It should be noted that Public Law 106-525 defines health disparity research as research that addresses the needs of health disparity populations. Health disparity populations are defined as “a population where there is a significant disparity in the overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, or survival rates compared to the health status of the general population.” NCMHD has generally defined health disparity populations as being one of the following: racial/ethnic minorities, low-income, and rural populations.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the appropriate Scientific/Research Contact listed in [Section VII](#) to gain more information on the relevance of their proposed dissertation topic to NCMHD's mission.