

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

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## **Institutional Limit on Proposal Submissions**

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

**Title: NCMHD Exploratory Centers of Excellence (P20)**

This is a reissue of RFA-MD-09-007  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MD-09-007.html>

**NIH Letters of Intent Deadline: June 1, 2009  
Full NIH/NCMHD Proposal Deadline: July 1, 2009**

### **LIMITED SUBMISSION – ONE (1) PER INSTITUTION**

Below is information about the National Institutes of Health Exploratory Centers of Excellence (P20) 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](mailto:sharpole@research.msstate.edu) and copied to Katie Echols at [kechols@research.msstate.edu](mailto: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 NIH Grant
2. Proposal Deadline
3. Title of Proposal
4. PI and Co-PIs with title and unit affiliation
5. Partner institutions/industries (if any)
6. Indicate if this is a resubmission – If so include copies of panel summary and all reviews
7. One paragraph providing a brief description of the proposed activities.

#### **Synopsis of Program:**

With funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, NIH/NCMHD invites grant applications from eligible institutions of higher education to establish an Exploratory NCMHD Center of Excellence to support accelerated research infrastructure and capacity building efforts that will make a measurable and significant contribution to NCMHD's short and long term

efforts to reduce and eliminate health disparities and stimulate the local economy by 1) establishing, building and sustaining novel partnerships; 2) hiring faculty from health disparity populations, 3) designing and launching new or expanding existing training programs within academe and the community for engaging academic health disparity researchers and community members in health disparity reduction or elimination research efforts or activities; 3) accelerating the recruitment of minorities into interventions and trials, and 4) rapidly initiating or expanding focused research training programs, research activities or intervention and prevention studies likely to enable improvements in minority health, reductions in existing health disparities and growth of the local economy.

There are clear and pressing needs for increasing the Nation's infrastructure and capacity for addressing health disparities, for developing innovative research training/education programs, partnerships for community engagement/outreach activities and innovative biomedical and biobehavioral research with a high likelihood for promoting minority health and eliminating health disparities. An NCMHD COE funded under this FOA is limited to two cores: a mandatory Administrative Core, and one additional core selected from the following: a Community Engagement/Outreach Core or a Research Training/Education Core or a Research Core. If a Research Core is proposed, it must contain a single research project. The two core requirement for the NCMHD COE coupled with two years of funding requires applicants to identify and develop effective and efficient cores, administration practices, and to select and support ideas and activities with high short-term impact and a high likelihood of enabling growth and investment in biomedical research and development, public health, and health care delivery. The required design allows applicants to either engage in building infrastructure and capacity, conducting innovative health disparities research, establishing novel partnerships for community engagement and outreach, providing research training/education experiences or all of the above depending on the existing resources, project aims, and the creativity of the applicant. Within this structure, applicants can select how best to establish a NCMHD COE for exploring the multiple and complex factors contributing to the promotion of minority health or to the reduction and elimination of health disparities. These factors are expected to include community level and individual social factors, biological, genetic, environmental, and behavioral factors acting independently or dependently, across multiple social contexts, and across multiple social levels. The Exploratory NCMHD COE established under this FOA is expected to contribute to the Department of Health and Human Services initiative for eliminating health disparities.

This NCMHD COE grant award provides a means through which an institution or consortium of institutions can:

- Establish an entity responsible for administrative and scientific oversight, coordination, and global reporting and evaluation of all minority health and health disparity research, research training, community outreach/engagement, etc., and related awards made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This includes but is not limited to the Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research (RC1), RFA-OD-09-003, Administrative Supplements Providing Summer Research Experience for Students and Science Educators, NOT-OD-09-060; Administrative Supplements, NOT-OD-09-056; Competitive Revision Applications, NOT-OD-09-058, etc.;

- Develop an infrastructure at the institution and within a minority, rural, or low social and economic status community for conducting minority health and other health disparities research, community engagement/ outreach, and research training;
- Establish a single interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary center at the institution for coordinating and facilitating single, multi-site or regional minority health and health disparities efforts and activities;
- Establish, enhance or strengthen community engagement/outreach and institutional partnerships for addressing minority health, the elimination of health disparities, or both;
- Develop, enhance or strengthen existing research training activities that prepare researchers from minority and health disparity populations to conduct meritorious minority health and health disparities research.

The proposed or existing projects and activities that are administered, coordinated, or housed under the NCMHD COE must address or be related to minority health, health disparities, or both but need not be thematic or focused on a single specific disease or condition. Research training activities may be provided for students, post-docs, faculty, community organizations, lay community workers, etc. The adaptation of training programs proven to increase quality, retention, and competitiveness of minorities and individuals from health disparity populations are of interest.

An exploratory NCMHD COE may propose to conduct innovative basic, behavioral, clinical, or population based research directed toward improving minority health, eliminating health disparities, or both, in any of the following diseases or conditions: cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, mental health, and obesity or other diseases or conditions of major public health importance. Research associated with lung and liver diseases, psoriasis, scleroderma, and glomerular injury is also encouraged when significant disparities for racial and ethnic populations and medically underserved populations are known to exist. Intervention and prevention research studies and trials exploring multiple risk factors that cut across a single or multiple diseases or conditions are of interest.

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