

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FOR IMPROVED HEALTH



Supporting research collaborations to pursue new paths of study, overcome barriers, or integrate new research perspectives to move knowledge into action

LETTERS OF INTENT DUE
November 16, 2020 by 5:00 pm CST



AW ADVANCING A HEALTHIER
WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT

Kristen Gardner-Volle
Program Manager
(414) 955-4754
kgardnervolle@mcw.edu

**Please note that AHW staff are working remotely, and email is the preferred form of communication*

Overview

LOI Application Checklist

- Review the RFA and confirm eligibility

- Consult with AHW Program Manager to review proposed project scope and fit with RFA (highly encouraged)

- Complete all sections of the LOI (sample application provided to work on with project team prior to submitting online)

- Share draft of LOI with AHW Program Manager a minimum of two weeks prior to application deadline for feedback

- Collect Biosketches the for PI, all Co-Is, and industry partners, as appropriate, to be included in online submission**

- Submit LOI via online form prior to 5:00 pm on November 16, 2020**

- Complete key personnel signatures via AHW-initiated DocuSign prior to 5:00 pm on November 19, 2020**

Note: **BOLD** items are required.

At the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW), we are driven by a vision for a healthier Wisconsin.

As a statewide philanthropy, we seek to propel the most promising work and ideas to improve health and advance health equity in Wisconsin today, and for generations to come. We do that by *investing* in high-impact, promising work; *connecting* people, research, and academic medicine to break down silos and build up relationships across sectors and communities; and *influencing* how ideas and knowledge can become action to inform programs, policies, and practices.

We focus our work to advance three health priorities in Wisconsin: improving heart health, supporting healthy minds, and dismantling cancer. Alongside these issues, we aim to accelerate innovation, collaboration, and impact by responding to research- and community-identified needs. (Learn more about [our story](#), [how we work](#), and [our focus areas](#).)

Funding Summary

AHW's *Call for Applications: Collaborative Research Projects* aims to foster collaborations along the T0-T5 spectrum to support research that addresses Wisconsin's health needs. This opportunity is open to full-time or full professional effort MCW School of Medicine faculty.

Key Dates

November 16, 2020

Letter of Intent (LOI) Applications Due

January 2021

Full Proposal Invitations

March 15, 2021

Full Proposal Applications Due

May 2021

Conditional Notification of Award

July 1, 2021

Award Start



Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health

Funding Details

AHW's *Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health* aims to foster research collaborations with the intent to pursue new paths of study, overcome barriers, or integrate new research perspectives to address Wisconsin's health needs. There is no limit on the budget request or project duration; however, projects generally request budgets between approximately \$200,000 and \$250,000 and project durations between approximately 24 and 36 months for this funding mechanism. Approximately \$1 million is available to support approximately four meritorious projects led by MCW School of Medicine faculty.

Description

It is becoming widely accepted that collaboration in science is necessary to solve the complex health problems facing our society and to move important discoveries from the lab to the clinic and beyond. Recognizing that there are many paths to success, AHW seeks to support investigator collaborations to stimulate development of innovative research and discovery, strengthen academic capacity, and increase translation and dissemination of new knowledge.

AHW's *Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health* seeks to foster research collaborations along the T0-T5 translational spectrum with the ultimate goal of addressing Wisconsin's health needs. Projects should lead to health improvement for Wisconsin communities either as a direct result of the proposed research (immediate improvement to human health), or as a result of longer-term research plans (eventual improvement to human health that could not occur without important advancements in the scientific field). AHW encourages research in alignment with the focus areas of improving heart health, supporting healthy minds, and dismantling cancer, however work outside of these focus areas will also be considered.

Successful research teams will be new, enhanced, or existing collaborations which involve one Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one Co-Investigator* (Co-I) with substantial roles in the project. Teams must represent one of four collaboration categories, outlined below. All projects are encouraged, as appropriate, to take advantage of the collaborative intent of this mechanism by assembling robust investigative teams that achieve the objective of the selected collaboration category. **Co-I/Collaborator requirements vary by collaboration category. See the Eligibility section of this RFA for details.*

Collaboration Categories

Through this call, AHW seeks to support collaborations across the T0-T5 spectrum in alignment with the following four categories:

Basic/clinical/population science collaborations to speed the translation of knowledge and health impact.

- These collaborations involve two or more investigators who approach the research question from different stages along the T0-T5 translational spectrum

Interdisciplinary collaborations between two or more disciplines to cross-pollinate different expertise and produce new knowledge, instruments, and models.

- These collaborations leverage principles, approaches, and expertise from different disciplines to develop approaches that may not occur if tackled separately



- Investigators should represent two or more distinct disciplines

Junior/established investigator collaborations to create new opportunities to increase individual knowledge, skills, networks, and resources of both investigators by expanding the capacity of junior investigators and leveraging existing expertise and resources held by established investigators.

- “Junior” investigators are defined as faculty at the Assistant Professor level who have not previously received substantial, independent federal funding. *AHW defers to the NIH [list of smaller grants and awards that maintain new investigator status](#)*
- Collaborations may be existing mentor relationships; however, these are not intended to be training awards, and projects must focus on a specific research question

Academic/industry collaborations to stimulate the production of usable innovations to speed discovery and health impacts.

- These collaborations unite the forces of academic research with industry to test or develop new diagnostics, therapeutics, and other solutions that move knowledge into action
- Collaborations may be used to explore the technical merit or feasibility of an idea or technology, or to increase the marketability of a therapeutic or technology
- Must involve one MCW PI and one collaborator from an industry partner (i.e. one individual may not serve as both the MCW PI and the industry partner)

Additional Proposal Considerations

- All applications should have human health/disease as their focus
- Project aims must be distinct from prior or existing funded projects
- Proposals that include funding for core resource development must also have a significant research question and a sustainability plan to continue the service after the award period ends

Eligibility

At AHW, we firmly believe that we can go further together than we can alone. All projects are encouraged, as appropriate, to take advantage of the collaborative intent of this mechanism by assembling robust investigative teams that achieve the objective of the selected collaboration category.

At a minimum, collaborative teams must be comprised of one PI and at least one Co-I or collaborator, depending upon the collaboration category selected. See the table below for specific requirements of each collaboration category.

Collaboration Category	MCW PI	MCW Co-I	Additional Co-I(s)	Collaborators
Basic/clinical/population science	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor and a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine (minimum 5% FTE)	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, or Graduate School (minimum 5% FTE)	Optional: Faculty at MCW or external institutions	Optional: MCW faculty, staff, students, or external experts
Interdisciplinary	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with a primary appointment in the MCW School of	Optional: Faculty at MCW or	Optional: MCW faculty, staff, students, or external experts



	and a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine (minimum 5% FTE)	Medicine, School of Pharmacy, or Graduate School (minimum 5% FTE)	external institutions	
Junior/ established investigator	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor and a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine (minimum 5% FTE). “Junior” investigator must be an Assistant Professor who has not previously received substantial, independent federal funding	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, or Graduate School (minimum 5% FTE). “Junior” investigator must be an Assistant Professor who has not previously received substantial, independent federal funding	Optional: Faculty at MCW or external institutions	Optional: MCW faculty, staff, students, or external experts
Academic/ industry	Required: Full-time or full professional effort faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor and a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine (minimum 5% FTE)	Not required	Optional: Faculty at MCW or external institutions	Required: At least one collaborator from the industry partner. Optional: MCW faculty, staff, students, or external experts

MCW Primary Investigator

All projects require an MCW PI. The PI must be a full-time or full professional effort MCW faculty member with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor and a primary appointment in the School of Medicine and is required to contribute a minimum of five percent FTE for the full award period. The PI will be responsible for compliance with fiduciary and reporting requirements as well as ensuring that all project partners receive communications, notifications, and instructions from AHW. Faculty may not serve as the PI on two concurrent investigator-initiated AHW awards (formerly known as the AHW Responsive Component).

MCW Co-Investigator

For **basic/clinical/population science collaborations, interdisciplinary collaborations, and junior/established investigator collaborations**, the involvement of at least one MCW Co-I is required. The MCW Co-I must be a full-time or full professional effort MCW faculty member with a primary appointment in the MCW School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, or Graduate School and is required to contribute a minimum of five percent FTE for the full award period.

Inclusion of an MCW Co-I is not required for **academic/industry collaboration** projects.

Additional Co-Investigator(s)

Additional Co-Is are optional but encouraged and are not subject to the same eligibility requirements as the MCW Co-I. Additional Co-Is may be faculty at MCW or at institutions outside of MCW and are not held to minimum FTE requirements.



Collaborators

For **academic/industry collaborations**, the involvement of at least one collaborator from an industry partner is required. Note that AHW funds cannot be used to support effort (salary and fringe benefits) for collaborators from for-profit industry corporations; this effort should be provided in-kind.

Collaborators are optional but encouraged, as applicable, and are not subject to the same eligibility requirements as the MCW PI or Co-I. Collaborators may be MCW faculty, staff, students, or experts outside of MCW. Collaborators typically have a smaller role in the project than Co-Is (e.g., technical expertise, provide clinical samples), and may or may not receive salary support through AHW funding. Salary support is allowed for extra-institutional academic personnel through a subcontracting process, but is not available for personnel of for-profit corporations.

Budget Requirements

AHW's investment in this funding opportunity will total approximately \$1 million to support approximately four meritorious projects. The exact number of awards will depend on the merit of proposals received and the funding amount requested by successful applicants. There are no maximum or minimum requirements for project budget requests or project durations. Successful project will demonstrate an appropriate budget and timeframe for their proposed scope of work with project durations generally between approximately 24 and 36 months for this funding mechanism.

Letter of intent (LOI) applicants will provide a requested budget amount without a corresponding budget justification. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be required to provide a detailed budget with justification for all personnel and expenses.

- Faculty salaries must abide by the **current [NIH salary cap](#)**
- A minimum of five percent FTE is required of the MCW PI and MCW Co-I
- Award personnel may cost-share their effort. Cost-sharing may support any or all salary put forth, so long as minimum percent effort requirements are met. AHW funds may not be used to cost-share effort on any other work
- All personnel support must be justified and their specific project roles outlined in the budget justification during the full proposal stage

For information on financial compliance requirements for funded projects, please see the Compliance section of this RFA.

Supplanting Criteria

AHW was established as the result of a generous financial gift made by Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin to the people of Wisconsin, giving AHW the extraordinary responsibility to steward this financial gift on behalf of Wisconsin residents. As such, AHW adheres to requirements as defined in a March 28, 2000 Order of the Commissioner of Insurance which requires that AHW funds (the Funds) "may not be used to supplant funds or resources otherwise available." AHW, via MCW, must report annually on its determination that the Funds do not supplant other resources that may be available to accomplish the same purposes. [Supplanting criteria can be found on the AHW website.](#)

Prior to final funding recommendations and approval, AHW and/or its oversight body, the Research and Education Advisory Committee (REAC), will assess whether other financial resources exist or are available for the project, including an assessment of whether the applicants have other financial resources available for the



project. Applicants must certify that no financial resources will be supplanted and provide a complete listing of current funding sources for the project or similar other projects.

Leveraging

All applicants are highly encouraged to leverage additional funding support for their work. Leveraging additional support not only demonstrates additional commitment to a project, but also increases sustainability of efforts and can provide resources for activities that AHW cannot fund.

Leveraging can include departmental funds, cost-sharing of salary support, matching funding from other funders, business partners, or government (city, county, state, or federal) funds, as well as in-kind support.

Allowable Expenses & Funding Restrictions

Funds can only be used for direct project-specific expenses, which include salary and benefits for personnel directly involved in the project and direct expenses including supplies, equipment, travel, etc.

Funds may not be used for:

- Projects conducted outside of Wisconsin
- Indirect costs such as ongoing operating expenses for routine functions and principal programs
- Debt reduction
- Entertainment or alcoholic beverages
- Lobbying
- Reimbursement solely for patient care or clinical service delivery
- Publishing fees to benefit education or research in general
- Stipends
- Supplanting

View a complete list of [Allowable and Unallowable Costs](#) on the AHW website.

Application and Review Process

For the *Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health*, AHW utilizes a two-stage application and review process beginning with submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), with selected applicants invited to submit a full proposal.

Letter of Intent

All project team collaborations that meet the applicant eligibility requirements should submit an LOI via the online form available on the AHW website by 5:00 pm CST on November 16, 2020. Late LOIs will not be accepted.

Applicants must answer all required fields and follow the restrictions set within the online form. No paper or emailed applications will be considered. AHW will confirm receipt of the submission via email to the MCW PI.

Following successful submission of the completed LOI through the online form, signatures from key project personnel will be required via DocuSign to indicate their awareness and support of the submitted application. Individuals will receive an email with instructions to complete and submit their signature and all required signatures must be submitted by 5:00 pm on November 19, 2020 to complete the LOI submission and be eligible to advance to merit review.



Notification emails are anticipated to be sent to the MCW PI via email in January 2021, following completion of the LOI review process. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal application.

Full Proposal Application

Selected applicants will be sent instructions and full proposal application materials with notification of their invitation to the full proposal stage. Applications must be submitted via the AHW Grants Management System by 5:00 pm CST on March 15, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted. AHW will confirm receipt of the submission via email to the MCW PI.

LOI and Full Proposal Review

At both the LOI and full proposal stages, applications will undergo technical review by AHW staff for eligibility, content, and submission requirements, including:

- All fields are completed
- Adherence to guidelines and restrictions detailed in this RFA, the LOI and full proposal instructions, and the LOI and full proposal submission forms
- All eligibility criteria are met

Merit reviews will be conducted by an internal (MCW) review body consisting of two panels: one comprised of clinical/population science experts and another comprised of basic science experts. Applicants will identify which panel best aligns with their proposal in their LOI submission, however, selection does not guarantee review by that panel. The LOI phase of the review will be the most selective; applicants are encouraged to take the assembly of the collaborative team and writing of the LOI very seriously. At the full proposal stage, each application will also be reviewed by an external (non-MCW) reviewer, in addition to the internal review body.

All applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Collaborative Team
 - Aligns with the selected collaboration category and demonstrates potential to contribute to the intent of that category, as outlined in this RFA
 - Brings together collaborative partners with different skill sets, resources, and expertise necessary to accomplish the aims of the project
 - New or enhanced collaborations are constructed to incorporate expertise which strategically adds to the pursuit of project aims, and potential of the team is high
 - Existing collaborations have demonstrated a track record of accomplishments and are poised to take their work to the next level
 - Team members possess the appropriate institutional support, equipment and other physical resources required to be successful in their collaboration and proposed research
- Significance
 - Project is relevant and important to the health of Wisconsin communities
 - Explains the project's significance to improving human health, as well as to the scientific field, by accomplishing the following:
 - Addresses an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field and has a strong scientific premise
 - Improves scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice
 - Successful completion of the aims will change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive the field
- Research Approach
 - Overall strategy, methodology, and analysis are well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the aims of the project



- Approach leverages the unique strengths of the collaborative team and accomplishes the intent of the selected collaboration category
- The investigators have outlined potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success
- If the project is in the early stages of development, the strategy establishes feasibility and particularly risky aspects will be managed
- Completion of the proposed research is feasible for the budget and grant period

For each application, reviewers will provide the following:

- Conflict of Interest Attestation
- Overall Impact Score
- Collaborative Team Score
- Significance Score
- Research Approach Score
- Review Comments

The scoring system uses a nine-point scale based on the rating scale used by the National Institutes of Health. The nine-point rating scale is anchored according to the following descriptions:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Exceptional (exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses) | High |
| 2. Outstanding (extremely strong with negligible weaknesses) | |
| 3. Excellent (very strong with only some minor weaknesses) | |
| 4. Very Good (strong but with numerous minor weaknesses) | Medium |
| 5. Good (strong but with at least one moderate weakness) | |
| 6. Satisfactory (some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses) | |
| 7. Fair (some strengths but with at least one major weakness) | Low |
| 8. Marginal (a few strengths and a few major weaknesses) | |
| 9. Poor (very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses) | |

- Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact
- Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact
- Major Weakness: A weakness that severely lessens impact

Following merit review at each application stage, AHW’s oversight bodies will review the recommendations from the merit reviewers and approve a slate of LOIs to invite to the full proposal application stage and the slate of full proposals to fund. AHW may request that applicants adjust their scope, budget, or timeline based on the outcome of the review process. If necessary, these applicants will be notified and asked to resubmit their adjusted application materials for further review. No negotiations or appeals will be accommodated. Final funding decisions will be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval.

Conflict of Interest

Each review process follows a Conflict of Interest policy. A conflict of interest is apparent whenever a reviewer’s objectivity may be perceived as compromised by the nature of a personal or professional relationship or obligation to an applicant. Review panel members with a conflict of interest pertaining to a proposal’s review and/or funding are self-identified and recused from proposal discussion and scoring.



Award Determination

Notification emails of award determination are anticipated to be sent to the MCW PI in May 2021, following completion of the full proposal review process.

Application Resources

AHW funding is highly competitive. Our goal is to support applicants through the application process to the best of our abilities, and we encourage applicants to contact AHW staff with questions throughout the application process.

Pre-Application AHW Consultation (highly encouraged)

For an efficient application process, applicants are highly encouraged to connect with the AHW Program Manager to discuss their proposed project scope and ensure it is in alignment with the funding opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to connect as early in the development of their LOI as possible. **Contact Kristen Gardner-Volle at kgardnervolle@mcw.edu to set up a time to discuss your proposal idea.**

AHW Online Resources

AHW's website provides information, application resources, and answers to frequently asked questions related to each application and the AHW funding process. Visit the AHW website at www.ahwendowment.org.

At the end of this RFA is a sample application which shows the questions and information needed for the LOI application. A fillable copy of this sample application is available to download on the AHW website and is designed to be used to prepare your responses for the official application form. The official application is available online via a link on the AHW website.

When filling out the online application, only one applicant team member may begin the application by creating a login (email address and password) that will allow that individual to return to saved work. We recommend you use the sample application with your collaborators, and then designate one individual to enter the completed application information online.

Funded Project Compliance Overview

The following information briefly highlights the process and requirements for projects that are successfully awarded funding through AHW'S *Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health*.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reporting

There are many means to communicate award progress between AHW staff and the funded PI including, but not limited to, direct communication, annual progress reports, and final reports. Funded projects will be required to submit progress reports annually throughout their project duration. Progress reports will be due no later than one month following the completion of each project year. A final progress report will be due no later than 60 days after the award end date. If the award end date aligns with the end of the final project year, the final report may



be submitted in lieu of the final progress report. All progress reports must be submitted electronically to AHW. Failure to provide a progress report could result in termination of the project and/or ineligibility for future AHW funding.

AHW uses the information that PIs provide in progress reports to monitor progress and prepare public communication pieces that demonstrate the benefits of AHW funding to improve the health of Wisconsin residents. As such, PIs are advised to use lay-friendly language as much as possible when completing progress reports.

PIs are expected to be responsive to requests for information on continued progress, sustainability of the project and/or collaborative team, and other developments beyond the award period.

Additional Requirements

All projects should make accommodations to attend a grantee learning community held each project year during the award period. Learning community events are organized by AHW to promote bidirectional learning among funded partners and provide an opportunity for investigator networking.

Funded investigators may also be asked to contribute to the social return on investment of AHW by participating in supplementary engagement activities, which may include participation on AHW review panels, programs and initiatives, public presentations, networking events, peer-to-peer feedback sessions, trainings, dissemination events, among others.

Financial Compliance

While these awards are collaborative in nature, the PI is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with fiduciary requirements throughout the life of the award. Upon funding approval, the PI and any additional faculty and staff with administrative responsibility on the award should attend an orientation session with AHW staff to discuss financial compliance requirements.

It is important to note that AHW funds may not be used to supplant funds or resources that are available from other sources. If a PI receiving AHW funding is awarded a new grant that is for the same or similar research, they should notify AHW staff so that a supplanting review can be conducted. If it is determined that supplanting exists, the affected portion of the AHW funding will either be rescinded or reallocated, in accordance with MCW Corporate Policy BF.SP.060.

Financial Conditions

The amount awarded is the maximum funding available from AHW for this project. MCW reserves the right to reduce unspent funding and/or funding duration, if needed, to comply with state and/or federal law (including but not limited to law governing endowment fund management), or to address MCW financial constraints which negatively impact AHW.

Legal Compliance



Human and Animal Research Protection

AHW funding is contingent upon institutional approvals for the use of human subjects or laboratory animals. Awards funded by AHW must ensure that human and animal participants are protected during the collection of information from award participants and/or the publication or dissemination of award results.

Following award announcements, MCW IRB and/or IACUC staff must review all successful proposals that involve human subjects or laboratory animals for any purpose. Documentation of this IRB and/or IACUC review will be required before account setup can be completed and project work can begin. This process can be time consuming, and appropriate timing to secure approvals should be taken into consideration when developing the scope of work and timeline.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The HIPAA privacy rules are federal regulations protecting the confidentiality of information used in clinical practice, research, and operations of health care facilities. The privacy rules apply to the use or disclosure of protected health information for research purposes and require a number of actions and documentation. Funded projects must comply with all HIPAA requirements.

Proposal Protection/Intellectual Property

AHW's public oversight body, the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health (Consortium), operates in accordance with standards consistent with Wisconsin's Open Meetings and Open Records Laws. Documents that are generally considered by the Consortium in open public meetings become public record that may be subject to release. Prior to funding decisions being made, information contained in your proposal will not be shared outside the established RFA review process and the governing body. If your project is funded, information contained in the proposal may be subject to release. An Intellectual Property Agreement may be required for inventions, discoveries, or copyrightable material developed as a result of a project.

Lobbying

AHW funds may not be used for lobbying efforts. Successful applicants will ensure that descriptions of the intended use of all AHW funds abide by the nonlobbying requirement.

Lobbying includes communication with a legislator or agency official regarding a specific piece of legislation and your view on it, including any attempt to influence local, state, or federal legislation or administrative action. Advocacy is allowable and includes taking part in efforts to create or effect change in policies or systems, and can take many forms including education, media, etc.

Marketing & Publicity Requirements

Award Announcement

All announcements related to the award of AHW funds are embargoed (i.e. not for dissemination outside of project partners) until the date set by AHW. In most cases, AHW will prepare its own press release to publicize funding awards and announce awards on its own dissemination channels, which may include the AHW website, electronic newsletter, and/or additional avenues such as social media.



Press Releases, Publications and/or Media Opportunities

News releases regarding the receipt of your AHW funding award are embargoed until the date set by AHW (see Award Announcement details above). Subsequent news releases about your project's activities do not need to adhere to an embargo or be reviewed by AHW. Exceptions to this guideline include announcements or press releases related to major events, information releases, or other announcements in which you seek AHW's collaboration on the announcement. Please contact your program manager with any questions.

If you are contacted by a reporter during the period of your award, AHW encourages you to share the news and impact of your work! If reporters have specific questions about AHW or why your project was funded, please direct those inquiries to AHW Communications at sdeering@mcw.edu or (414) 955-4753.

In press releases, publications and/or other media opportunities, acknowledge AHW as the project funder with the following clause:

"This [project, program, conference, research, report, etc. (choose one)] is funded [in part or wholly (choose one)] by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment."



Sample Letter of Intent

Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health

Eligible collaborations are invited to submit the following Letter of Intent (LOI) application to apply for AHW's Call for Applications: Collaborative Research for Improved Health. The application must be completed and submitted using the online form available via the AHW website at ahwendowment.org. The online application form only supports Plain Text. No text effects such as bold, italics, underlining, bulleting, numbering, etc. will be captured in the final submission. No paper or emailed applications will be considered. **The deadline for LOI submission is November 16, 2020 by 5:00 pm CST.** Late LOIs will not be accepted.

Project Information

Project Title (required; maximum 100 characters, including spaces)

Goal Statement – In two to three sentences, describe the relevance of this research to health improvement in Wisconsin. Use plain language that can be understood by a lay audience. (required; maximum 400 characters, including spaces)

Award Budget

Total amount requested (required; in whole dollars): \$
Additional funds, if applicable: \$
Source of additional funds:
Start date: July 1, 2021
Duration of funding (required; in months): months

Project Team Information

Type of Collaboration: Successful research teams will be new, enhanced, or existing collaborations with the intent to pursue new paths of study, overcome barriers, or integrate new research perspectives to improve health in Wisconsin. Teams must represent one of four collaboration categories. **Select which collaboration type your team represents. (required; select one)**

Basic/clinical/population science collaboration
involves two or more investigators from different stages of research across the T0-T5 spectrum to speed the translation of knowledge and health impact

Interdisciplinary collaboration between two or more disciplines
to cross-pollinate different expertise and produce knowledge, instruments, models, and approaches that

Junior/established investigator collaboration
to create new opportunities to increase knowledge, skills, networks, and resources by expanding capacity of junior investigators and leveraging

Academic/industry collaboration
to stimulate the production of usable innovations to speed discovery and health impacts



may not occur if tackled separately

expertise and resources held by established investigators

MCW Principal Investigator (required) – Projects must designate one (1) eligible MCW Principal Investigator (PI). PIs must be full-time or full professional effort MCW faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor with a primary appointment in the School of Medicine. See the RFA for MCW PI eligibility requirements. Collaboration among partners is required, but compliance with fiduciary and reporting requirements are the responsibility of the PI.

MCW PI Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):		
Title/Position:		
MCW Department:	MCW Division:	
Work Phone:	Email:	
Cell Phone:		
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
MCW Standing:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time faculty	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-professional effort status	
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	
Department Chair:	Department Chair email:	

MCW Co-Investigator (required, except for academic/industry) – Project teams other than the academic/industry collaboration type must designate at least one (1) eligible MCW Co-Investigator (Co-I). The MCW Co-I must be full-time or full professional effort MCW faculty. See the RFA for MCW Co-I eligibility requirements.

1. MCW Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):		
Title/Position:		
MCW Department:	MCW Division:	
Phone:	Email:	
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
MCW Standing:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time faculty	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-professional effort status	
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	
Department Chair:	Department Chair email:	

Additional Co-Investigator(s) – Projects are encouraged to include additional Co-Is, as appropriate, who are not subject to the same eligibility requirements as the MCW Co-I. Additional Co-Is may be faculty at MCW or at institutions outside of MCW. See the RFA for Additional Co-I eligibility requirements.

2. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):
Title/Position:
Institution:



Department:	Division:	
Phone:	Email:	
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	
Department Chair:	Department Chair email:	

3. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):		
Title/Position:		
Institution:		
Department:	Division:	
Phone:	Email:	
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	
Department Chair:	Department Chair email:	

4. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):		
Title/Position:		
Institution:		
Department:	Division:	
Phone:	Email:	
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	
Department Chair:	Department Chair email:	

5. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):		
Title/Position:		
Institution:		
Department:	Division:	
Phone:	Email:	
Please indicate one of the following:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical science investigator	<input type="checkbox"/> Population science investigator
Department Administrator:	Admin. Phone:	



Department Chair: Department Chair email:

6. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):
Title/Position:
Institution:
Department: Division:
Phone: Email:
Please indicate one of the following:
 Basic science investigator Clinical science investigator Population science investigator
Department Administrator: Admin. Phone:
Department Chair: Department Chair email:

7. Co-I Name (First Last, Suffix/Credentials):
Title/Position:
Institution:
Department: Division:
Phone: Email:
Please indicate one of the following:
 Basic science investigator Clinical science investigator Population science investigator
Department Administrator: Admin. Phone:
Department Chair: Department Chair email:

Industry Partner(s) (Required for Academic/Industry Collaborations) – Projects with the academic/industry collaboration must identify at least one collaborator from the industry partner.

1. Industry Partner Name, Credentials:
Title/Position:
Institution/Organization:
Phone: Email:

2. Industry Partner Name, Credentials:
Title/Position:
Institution/Organization:
Phone: Email:

3. Industry Partner Name, Credentials:
Title/Position:



Institution/Organization:	
Phone:	Email:

Collaborators(s): Projects may designate collaborators as appropriate, who are not subject to MCW faculty eligibility requirements. Collaborators typically have a smaller role in the project than a Co-I (e.g., technical expertise, provide clinical samples).

Name, Credentials:	Institution/Organization:	Department:	Investigator Type:
			Choose an item.

AHW Five-Year Plan Emphasis Areas

AHW Focus Areas – AHW recognizes that the health issues threatening Wisconsin’s residents and communities are complex, interrelated, and multi-faceted. While AHW supports partners in responding to emerging health needs and opportunities, we aim to focus in three signature health areas:

- Improving Heart Health – Advancing cardiovascular health by seeking solutions across genetic and biologic factors, health behaviors and the socioeconomic conditions that lead to poor heart health outcomes
- Supporting Healthy Minds – Advancing brain and behavioral health by seeking solutions across brain conditions, diseases and injuries, as well as the emotions, behaviors and biology of mental wellness and substance use
- Dismantling Cancer – Advancing improvements in cancer by seeking solutions that improve understanding, prevention, and survival in the fight against cancer and its causes

Primary (required)

Please select **one (1)** primary area of emphasis for this project:

- Improving Heart Health
- Supporting Healthy Minds
- Dismantling Cancer
- Other, please describe:

Secondary

If applicable, select **all** additional focus area(s):

- Improving Heart Health
- Supporting Healthy Minds
- Dismantling Cancer
- Other, please describe:

AHW Determinants of Health – AHW recognizes that determinants of health are the contributing and risk factors that lead to increased risk for disease, disability, and death within each focus area. While there are many different definitions of determinants of health, AHW is guided by three broad categories of determinants:

- Biological and genetic factors – Including areas such as: genetic makeup (chromosomal, single-gene); physical body structure (age, weight); and bodily function (blood pressure, biochemical function)
- Health behaviors and health care factors – Including areas such as: diet, physical activity, alcohol/tobacco and other drug use, sexual activity; policies that impact individual and population health; and health services, such as access to and quality of care
- Social, economic and environmental factors – Including areas such as: availability of resources to meet daily needs, such as living wage and healthy foods; social supports and interactions; public safety; exposure to toxic substances and physical hazards; social norms and



attitudes, such as discrimination; exposure to crime, violence and social disorder; quality schools; and housing, homes and neighborhoods

Primary (required)

Please select **one (1)** primary area of emphasis for this project:

- Biological and genetic factors
- Health behaviors and health care factors
- Social, economic and environmental factors

Secondary

If applicable, select **all** additional determinants(s):

- Biological and genetic factors
- Health behaviors and health care factors
- Social, economic and environmental factors

Health Equity – AHW is committed to advancing health equity across Wisconsin. Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain his or her full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.” (<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity/index.htm>)

If applicable, please select **all** ways that your project aims to impact equity (**required**):

- Project aims, objectives, strategy or approach
- Project team participation
- Population the project aims to serve or directly impact
- Health issue, disease, or condition the project is focused on
- Other, please describe:
- This project is not designed to impact equity

Narrative Questions

The questions below are designed to allow research teams to describe their collaboration and proposed research, as well as the project’s relevance to the health of Wisconsin communities.

1. Describe the overall problem to be addressed, the impact the project will have on the health of Wisconsin communities, and the specific aims you are proposing to address the problem. (**required**; maximum 6,750 characters, including spaces)
2. Briefly describe the research methodology. Please include: the rationale for your research, including any preliminary data, if available; the experiments you will do to accomplish each aim; and how you will demonstrate statistical significance given your research resources and/or patient population available for recruitment, if applicable. (**required**; maximum 4,500 characters, including spaces. Citations may be included below, and one page of data may be included as an attachment, if needed.)
3. Describe your research collaboration and how it aligns with the collaboration category selected. Describe how the collaboration will enable your team to pursue new paths of study, overcome barriers, and/or integrate new research perspectives to address your research question. (**required**; maximum 4,500 characters, including spaces)



Review Information

The questions below will be used to guide the merit review of your proposal at the LOI and, if applicable, full proposal stages.

1. Merit reviews at both the LOI and full proposal stages will be completed by a review body consisting of two panels: one comprised of clinical/population science experts and another comprised of basic science experts. Please identify which panel you would prefer review your submission. Preference for a particular panel does not guarantee review by that panel. **(required)**
 - Basic science review panel
 - Clinical/population science review panel
2. At the full proposal stage, each application will also receive review by an external expert as recommended by the applicant. In anticipation of the full proposal review, please provide four recommendations of external experts (non-MCW) to serve as external reviewers for your full proposal application. Should you be invited to the full proposal stage, one of your recommendations may be selected to serve as an external reviewer. **Please follow the criteria below when making reviewer recommendations:**
 - a. External reviewers should be more senior in appointment
 - b. External reviewers may not have been employed at MCW within the last three years
 - c. External reviewers may not have been a collaborator or had any other professional relationships with the applicant PI or Co-I(s) within the last three years

A. Reviewer Name, Credentials (required):

Title/Position:

Institution:

Department:

Area of Expertise:

Phone:

Email:

B. Reviewer Name, Credentials (required):

Title/Position:

Institution:

Department:

Area of Expertise:

Phone:

Email:

C. Reviewer Name, Credentials (required):

Title/Position:

Institution:

Department:

Phone:

Email:



Area of Expertise:

D. Reviewer Name, Credentials (required):

Title/Position:

Institution:

Phone:

Department:

Email:

Area of Expertise:

Citations

Please use plain text to list citations (optional).

Attachments (required)

The following items should be completed and uploaded individually to the online application form before submitting.

1. Required: NIH Biosketches for the PI, each Co-I, and industry partner(s) in the academic/industry collaboration type.
2. Optional: 1-page of data may be included, as applicable.

Signatures (required)

Following successful submission of the completed LOI through the online form, signatures will be required via DocuSign from the following individuals to indicate their awareness and support of the submitted application:

- MCW PI and their respective MCW Department Chair
- MCW Co-I
- Additional Co-I(s)
- Industry partner collaborator, if applicable (academic/industry collaborations only)

Following submission, each of the individuals above will receive an email with instructions to complete and submit their signature. Please note that required signatures must be submitted by 5:00 pm on November 19, 2020 to complete the LOI submission and be eligible to advance to merit review.

