CALIFORNIA HIV / AIDS
RESEARCH PROGRAM

California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP)

Applicant Webinar
April 30, 2025

Agenda

- Introductions
- Program overview
- Funding opportunities
- *SmartSimple* online application platform
- Questions and next steps

CHRP Leadership Team

Rhodri Dierst-Davies
  Director

Lisa Loeb Stanga
  Senior Program Officer

Shoshanna Nakelsky
  Program Officer

Lesley Almanzar
  Program Analyst

Nancy Chamberlain
  RGPO Contracts & Grants

What is CHRP?

Established in 1983

Longest running program of its kind

Statewide research program

Collective investment:

~$360M in research

~2000 projects funded

Institution Type	Funded projects	$ Invested
UC Campuses	1450	$257M
Non-UC Academic	148	$30M
Non-profit/NGO	161	$35M
Clinic/Med Research	183	$26M
Government	37	$9M

Rhodri

Overview of the Funding Opportunities

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Basic Biomedical and Translational Science Discovery:
Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Pilot Awards

Requirements

Eligibility
- Early-stage investigator with mentor
- Holds/will have PI status (post-docs ok)
- Minimum 10% effort for PI
- Conduct research in CA only

Goals/Objectives
- Fund 5-9 highly innovative pilot studies by ESI
- Limited applicant pool (n=20 max via competitive LOIs)

Expectations
- HIV-specific research question, basic bio and/or transl.
- Likely to yield prelim data to apply for larger awards

Review Criteria

Letters of Intent
- Innovation (50%)
- Significance and Impact (25%)
- Approach and Feasibility (25%)

Full Application
- Innovation (30%)
- Significance (20%)
- Approach and Feasibility (50%)

Budget
- Direct costs up to $200,000/2 years
- Indirect costs per policy as stated in Grants Administration Manual (max 35%)

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Innovative Approaches to HIV Prevention and Care: Social and Behavioral Research Open Call

Requirements

Goals/Objectives: Interventions will improve access/uptake of prevention and/or care.

Expectations: Projects grounded in Social/Behavioral frameworks will address a significant aspect of the CA HIV epidemic through innovative approaches

Eligibility
- Path 1: All Investigators
- Path 2 Career Development (Mentored ESI)
- Holds or will have PI status
- 10% effort
- Conduct research in CA only

Review Criteria

LOI
- Innovation (50%)
- Significance and Impact (25%)
- Approach and Feasibility (25%)

Full Application
- Innovation (20%)
- Significance (20%)
- Approach and Feasibility (50%)
- Investigator Impact (10%)

Budget
- Direct costs up to $250,000/2 years
- Indirect costs per policy as stated in Grants Administration Manual

Review & Scoring

Three Level Review Process at Each Stage

Review Level	LOI Stage	Full Application
1 – Compliance	RGPO staff	RGPO staff
2 – Merit	CHRP + Advisory Council	Independent Reviewers
3 – Programmatic	CHRP + AC	Advisory Council

Score	Descriptor	Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Extremely strong with essentially no weaknesses
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
5	Good	Strong 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
8	Marginal	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
9	Poor	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness

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Important Milestones

Applicant Webinar for All RFPs:	Wednesday, April 30, 2025*
Questions Due:	Friday, May 2, 2025, by 5:00 PM
Questions Published:	Friday, May 9, 2025, by 5:00 PM**
Letters of Intent (LOI) Due:	**Thursday, May 15, 2025, 12:00 PM**
LOI Results Posted:	**Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 12:00 PM**
Invited Applications Due:	**Thursday, July 10, 2025, 12:00 PM**
Notifications of Peer Review:	Monday, December 1, 2025, 12:00 PM

Performance Period: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2028

*   *Recording available on website after the meeting*
** *Answers uploaded to website*

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Grant writing tips and common questions

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Pearls for Grant writing

- The most important thing in grantwriting is….

- The most important section of your full application is…

    - CHRP requires two abstracts: tailor each one

- Proofreading: a "cold read" will benefit your reviewers

    o "One Voice" if you have multiple writers

- Research Plan

    o No required sections (background, methods, etc.)

    o Funnel method: introduction should set up the info to come

    o Be explicit: enrollment criteria; sample size; outcome measures

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Applicant Questions from Prior Years

- What topics is CHRP hoping to fund? What does CHRP really want?
- Is my topic ok?

- Am I an early-stage investigator?
- Can post-docs apply?
- Can I apply if I currently have a CHRP grant?
- Can two of us apply as co-Principal Investigators?
- Can I include a community investigator?

- What budget info do I need to include at the LOI stage?
- Is there a salary cap?
- Can I include tuition for a student who is living in California while matriculating at an institution outside California?

Applicant Questions Received This Year to Date

1. Is my topic suitable for this RFP? => Don't discuss here; call your PO

2. For social/behavioral
   - Will the ESI vs non-ESI paths be assessed separately?
   - If I will get my terminal degree at the start of the award period, should I apply as ESI or as non-ESI?

3. Eligibility:
   - Can I hold this and another ESI award at the same time?
   - Can I retain this award if I apply as a post-doc but get promoted to scientist?
   - ...if I don't get promoted and remain a post-doc?

4. Budget
   - Is the salary support in this award meant to cover near 100% of ESI salary support?
   - Is there a cap on salary support?
   - Will study drug be available at no cost?

5. Other
   - Where are the Research Priority/Subject/Focus areas listed?
   - Do character limits include spaces?

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RFP Questions?

o Please enter questions in the Q&A section (will be saved)

  o We will do our best to answer each question today

o After today: further questions due by Friday, May 1st

  o Email to chrp@ucop.edu

  o We will publish all questions and our responses on our website

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Contact Information

For programmatic and scientific issues, contact the Program Officer:

- **Basic Biomedical and Translational Science Discovery**
  Lisa Loeb Stanga, lisa.loeb.stanga@ucop.edu

- **Innovative Approaches to HIV Prevention and Care**
  Shoshanna Nakelsky, Shoshanna.Nakelsky@ucop.edu

For Smart Simple navigation, technical issues, application instructions, and forms, contact our Contracts and Grants office by email at RGPOgrants@ucop.edu.

SmartSimple Grants Management Platform

Questions?

Thank You!