

Center for Behavioral Health Research & Training (CBHRT)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2025-2026

I. PURPOSE

The School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida established the Center for Behavioral Health Research and Training (CBHRT) with the dual goals of fueling scientific discovery and expanding professional expertise. The Center was designed to foster collaborative partnerships with mental health professionals, healthcare providers, and behavioral health researchers whose united expertise can create cutting-edge solutions for improving the health and well-being of diverse populations.

One of the Center's initiatives is a seed program that seeks to support research primarily in the behavioral health field. Through this program, the Center funds pilot projects that have the potential for developing into large-scale studies. Priority will be given to proposals that seek to address issues related to behavioral health and demonstrate a clear plan to harness pilot data for external grant proposals and/or to expand upon existing research projects.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Award Amount per Project: up to \$10,000

III. RELEVANT DATES

Proposal Submission Priority Deadline: November 30, 2025, at 11:59 pm (applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis)

Notification of Awards: December 17, 2025

Project Period: Starts when awarded

IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All applications must include a minimum of **two** investigators from different departments within the Academic Health Sciences Center (College of Health Professions and Sciences, College of Nursing, and/or College of Medicine), with a history of collaboration and/or clear alignment in research interests. While collaboration with a co-investigator from the School of Social Work is encouraged when it enhances the team's expertise, it is *not* required.

Prior recipients of CBHRT's seed grants are eligible to reapply if the research team can clearly justify the need for additional pilot work (e.g. an external grant was not awarded due to insufficient pilot data, an external grant was funded but additional pilot work is needed for another research project) and/or provide support demonstrating ongoing progress to leverage extramural funding and scholarship (e.g. peer-reviewed publications/presentations on topics related to CBHRT funding, developed intervention protocols for future clinical testing, secured non-federal funding to expand project, etc.).

V. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The application should include the following three elements:

- A cover page that provides a list of all faculty members on the project along with the name of their department affiliations and contact information (phone, email address);
- A 3-page proposal that describes the subject of interest, methodology selected to examine

the subject of interest, specific subsequent funding opportunity/goals to be pursued to expand upon the current study, and an explanation of how the project specifically fosters collaborative partnerships/cross-fertilization of mental health professionals, healthcare providers and behavioral health researchers to create cutting-edge solutions for improving the health and well-being of diverse populations; and

- A line-item budget along with a brief budget narrative (1 page)

All documents should be single-spaced with one-inch margins. All text should be in Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font.

Documents should be submitted by email to kgryglew@ucf.edu and susanny.beltran@ucf.edu. Please include each member of the research team (PI and all Co-PIs) on the cc: list of the submission email. Confirmation of submission receipt will be sent by email to everyone on the cc: list.

VI. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Costs of faculty salary and conference travel are unallowable. All funds must be directed toward project activities. Examples of allowable expenditures include but are not limited to research assistant support, software, translation services, participant incentives, dataset agreements, and travel to research sites. Funding can be used to support external awards/projects in progress which directly prepare the research team for the submission of a larger research proposal (e.g. NIMH R34, NIH R21, SAMHSA, NSF).

VII. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Proposal review will be guided by the following criteria:

- Alignment with priority areas found in the Florida State Health Improvement Plan, which is available at [Florida SHIP – State Health Improvement Plan – Florida's 2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan](#);
- Rigor of research methodology selected; and
- Potential for future funding.

VIII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

All applicants will be notified of the review outcome by email, using the email addresses listed in the application cover letter.

Deliverables: Award recipients are required to submit a final report, which will be made available on the Center's website at <https://healthprofessions.ucf.edu/socialwork/center/>. Additionally, all recipients are required to present their research outcomes, including extramural grant proposal/submission updates at a future CBHRT event after the funding project period.

IX. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicants should contact Drs. Kim Gryglewicz (407-823-2954; kgryglew@ucf.edu) or Susanny Beltran (407-823-4662; susanny.beltran@ucf.edu) with any questions.