



**Center for Behavioral Health
Research and Training**
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2025-2026: Community-Connected
Research Initiative

I. PURPOSE

In 2017, the School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida established the Center for Behavioral Health Research and Training (CBHRT). The goal of the CBHRT is to develop and sustain collaborative research partnerships with mental health professionals, healthcare providers, and behavioral health researchers. By leveraging the combined expertise of researchers and community providers, the CBHRT aims to advance scientific discoveries in behavioral health, create innovative solutions to improve health and well-being of diverse populations, and expand professional expertise.

One of the CBHRT's initiatives is a community-connected program that seeks to support research primarily in the behavioral health field. Through this program, the CBHRT will provide funding for faculty members to collaborate with community agencies on program development or evaluation initiatives, with the potential for these projects to serve as a foundation for larger grants in the future. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, but priority will be given to proposals received by **September 26, 2025**.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Award Amount per Project: \$15,000

III. RELEVANT DATES

Proposal Submission Priority Deadline: September 26, 2025, at 11:59 pm (applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis)

Notification of Awards: October 17, 2025 (or two weeks after application)

Project Period: 12 months from start date

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). A co-investigator from the School of Social Work is preferred but not required. Both investigators must be actively engaged in program development or evaluation efforts with community agencies, and working on projects that demonstrate potential for scalability and future external funding opportunities. Project should align with the behavioral health goals of the CBHRT.

V. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The application should include the following 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 and email address);

- A letter of support or MOU from the community agency confirming their collaboration;
- 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 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, data collection, 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.