



DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT PROGRAM

HEALTH RESEARCH CORE



FUNDING AVAILABLE

**\$100,000 per year
for up to two years**

DEADLINE

April 27, 2026

**20
26**

[APPLY HERE](#)

Supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences
of the National Institutes of Health under award number
2P50GM133807-06.

Call for Projects

PURPOSE

The goal of the Alliance Health Research (HR) Core Projects is to increase the number of scientists in clinical and translational research dedicated to the study of health conditions affecting our population. **Developmental Projects (DP) are 2-year projects suitable for developing into investigator-initiated applications, such as NIH R01-equivalent research project grants (RPGs), with additional data.** A DP should be led by an independent investigator with the background and scientific expertise necessary to lead the proposed research. In addition, the Project Lead (PL) must have previous experience as a Principal Investigator of an externally funded research project or subproject. The DP will address the objectives of the [IDeA-CTR](#) in sustaining the collaboration and coordination of clinical and translational research and addressing health conditions prevalently affecting our population in Puerto Rico. The DP aims to implement the Alliance objective to integrate basic, clinical, and translational research among the [Alliance partners](#), collaborating partners, and [IDeA state organizations](#).

Research Scope

Research proposals must involve translational research **addressing significant health concerns across communities in Puerto Rico and the US mainland** and must align with NIH research priorities and guidelines.



Available support



- **\$100,000/yr** in annual direct costs per project, for up to two years. Up to 1 project can be funded per year.

ELIGIBILITY

- The PL must be a **faculty member** in an academic and/or research Institution in Puerto Rico.
- PL must have **previous experience as Principal Investigator** or PL of an externally funded research project or subproject, which may include (pilot projects from RCMI, SuRE, INBRE, COBRE or the Alliance).
- The PL must **demonstrate the scientific background and expertise** required to lead the proposed research over the two-year period, supported by a strong publication record relevant to the project topic.
- Multiple Project Leads (MPL) are allowed but **MUST** demonstrate administrative and science feasibility. Each MPL must meet the eligibility criteria.

RESTRICTIONS

1. **Postdoctoral scholars** and others holding non-independent positions **are not eligible** to lead any HR Core projects.
2. Projects may **not overlap** with ongoing **funded projects** of the project leads.
3. Project leads may **not receive simultaneous research support** as project leads from this or another IDeA parent award (e.g., COBRE, INBRE, IDeA-CTR, CTR-N, or CTR-D) but may be eligible to serve as project lead of a supplement to an IDeA award.
4. **Collaborations with Foreign Institutions/Foreign Components are not allowed.**

Requirements

- Proposed research projects must involve **translational research** addressing significant **health concerns** across communities in **Puerto Rico** and the US mainland and must align with NIH research priorities and guidelines.
- If proposing a preclinical study, the investigators must clearly explain why this is necessary for their preclinical research, why the study cannot be conducted using clinical research methods, and how the outcomes of preclinical study will inform and lead to clinical research.
- **Mentor(s)**: Not required but are encouraged.
- **Career development plan**: Not required, however the application must describe future grant submission plans.
- **Prior approval from NIGMS**: Required, before initiation of the project (coordinated by the Alliance).
- **Compliance** with applicable regulatory requirements (i.e., IRB, IBC, or IACUC certifications, trainings, IRB or IACUC approval or submission, etc.)
- **Collaboration** among other institutions of the Alliance is highly recommended and prioritized. Collaborations with other IDEA-CTRs are encouraged.

Project Lead Responsibilities:

1 Publish at least 2 publications within the two-year period, on the research topic.

2 Participate in the Alliance Scientific Day and Mock Review.

3 Attend meetings requested by Alliance Leadership and Cores

4 PLs are required to submit an R01 or equivalent grant within the two-year period.



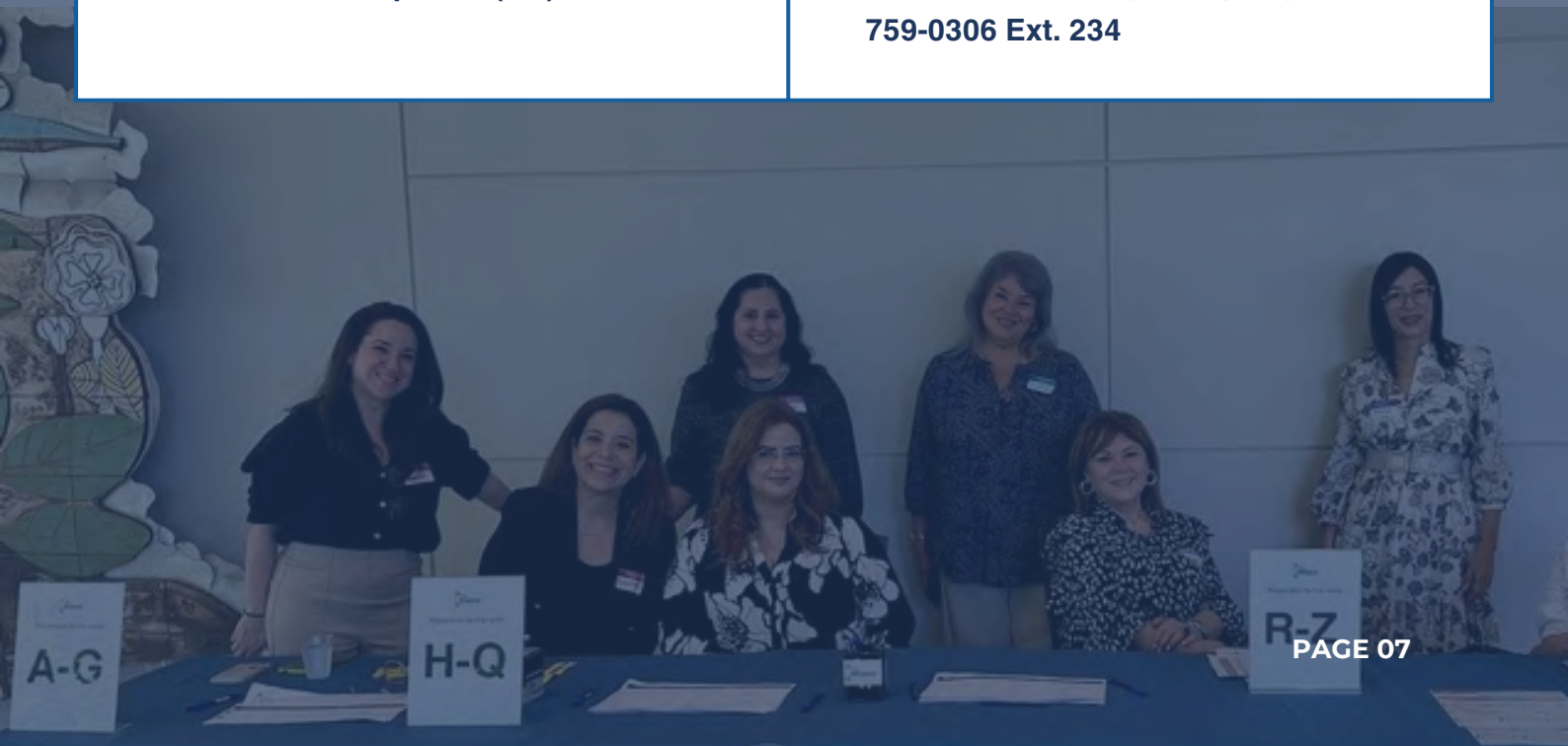
Important Dates

DP Call for 2026-2027:	March 2026
Project submission deadline:	April 27, 2026
Evaluation Process:	April 28 - May 26, 2026
NIH evaluation Process:	June 1, 2026
Earliest date to start:	July 2026

Pre-Submission Consultation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the relevant Alliance Cores

Cores	Contact
<p>Research Design, Compliance and Data Management (RDCD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Naydi Pérez, MS</u> 787-759-0306 Ext. 239 • RedCAP: <u>Janmarie Sierra, MSc</u> • Research Subject Advocate: <u>Adelma Rivera, BSN, RN</u> 787-759-0306 Ext. 224
<p>Clinical & Technological Research Resources (CTRR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Denisse Melecio Álamo, MBA</u> 787-759-0306 ext. 232 • <u>Bárbara Guzmán, BSN, RN, MPH</u> 787-759-0306 Ext. 236
<p>Community Engagement & Outreach (CEO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Edna Acosta Pérez, PhD, MSc</u> • <u>Bárbara Carlo, BBA</u> 787-759-0306 Ext. 249
<p>Professional Development (PD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Karen Pabón-Cruz, DrPH, MS, CT</u> 787-759-0306 Ext. 234



Application Process

All Project applications must adhere to the following page order and specifications. Those applications that do not follow these specifications will be returned without review.

PROPOSAL FORMAT


Applicants must submit a 6-page proposal prepared in accordance with [NIH R21 guidelines](#) and use the most recent [NIH format](#).

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Applications must be prepared using **PHS398** forms and include the following:

- **Face page** (signed by institutional signing official)
- **Biographical Sketch**, [NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement](#), and **Current and Pending (Other) Support** will be required for application due dates and all Just-in-Time, Research Performance Progress Reports, and Prior Approval submissions on or after January 25, 2026. For all project leaders and mentors should follow the [NIH format](#).
- **Project Summary**
- **Detailed budget** and **budget justification** (Form Page 4) and detailed budget justification (2-3 pages). Only direct funds can be requested. Funds may cover up to 20% of the PIs time, up to \$20,000 for a technician or study coordinator's salary, expenses associated with research procedures, and/or for on-site and off-site visits. Traveling to scientific meetings to present an abstract is limited to domestic travel and should not exceed \$2,500. Medical and/or lab supplies directly related to the proposed study are allowed. Request for equipment requires a quote, proper justification, and plans for future use once the project is completed.

BUDGET RESTRICTIONS

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- **Funds cannot be used for graduate students or postdoctoral stipends**, but students and postdocs may receive salary support as research staff from an awarded project.
 - **Funds cannot be used by or by collaborators at organizations in non-IDeA states or at foreign sites**. However, funds may be used in other IDeA and non-IDeA states and foreign sites for fee-for-service activities such as learning new techniques, sample and data analysis, workshops, etc. (For advice, please contact antonia.ortiz@upr.edu).

Application Process

- **Specific Aims** (1 page) Should include a brief description of the knowledge gap to be filled with the proposed project, list the goals and the specific research outcomes it intends to accomplish, state the hypothesis to be tested. State the relevance the proposed project has it related to the health conditions in Puerto Ricans.
- **Research Strategy** (6 pages) including:
 - Scientific premise for the proposed project includes consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of the project. Significance, preliminary studies (scientific premises), and Innovation. This should include one paragraph regarding the significance of the proposed study and its relevance to health · conditions in Puerto Ricans; and a paragraph explaining how the proposed project is innovative.
 - Description of the experimental design and methods proposed and how the investigator will achieve robust and unbiased results. Approach, Research Design and Research Timetable Describe the experimental approach for each aim proposed including the methods (data collection) and statistical analysis (including interpretation). Include a section of pitfalls and alternative strategies. A timetable for the proposed project is required and should include plans for abstract presentations and/ or peer-reviewed manuscript submission, and submission of NIH or equivalent funding grant.
- **Bibliography and References Cited**
- **Authentication of biological and chemical resources**
- **Checklist Format Page** with F&A cost breakdown
- **Human Subjects Section**, Human Subjects (if applicable):
 - PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
 - IRB Submission (required by the time of Review by HRRC)
 - Human Subjects Certification (required even if research is exempt)
- **Clinical Trials** (if applicable):
 - PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
 - IRB Submission (required by the time of Review by HRRC)
 - Documentation of IND/IDE status for studies that are subject to FDA regulation
 - Human Subjects Certification (required even if research is exempt)
- **Vertebrate Animals** Vertebrate Animals (if applicable):
 - IACUC approval (required by the time of Review by HRRC)
 - Vertebrate Animals Section

Application Process

- **Targeted/Planned Enrollment** Table, if applicable.
- **IRB or IACUC**, Institutional Biosafety Committee, and Good Clinical Practice (as applicable) Submit approval letter or evidence of submission. If the proposal consists of multiple institutions, it should have the reciprocal IRB or dual approval from the primary institution and UPR-MSU. (For advice, please contact adelma.rivera@upr.edu).
- **Training Certifications** All investigators must submit certifications for training in Human Subject Protection, HIPAA & GCP. If the project involves infectious material (i.e. clinical samples, bacterial strains, etc) or animals the investigators must also submit training certificates for Biosafety and/or & IACUC training as applicable.
- **Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan** (if applicable)
- **Resource Sharing Plans** (including data sharing, model organism sharing, and genome-wide association study [GWAS], if applicable).
- **Letters of Support** Key Personnel, and Consultants.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed

[Download the
complete checklist](#)



Awardees

DELIVERABLES

- It is required to publish at least 2 manuscripts related to the project within the two-year period.
- It is required to submit a R01 or equivalent grant within the two-year period.

ALLIANCE COMPLIANCE

- The Alliance and its partner institutions are committed to full compliance with current and future NIH policies and guidelines. The Alliance does not support any Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) related activities, including research and training activities or programs. Support will not be provided for proposals/research studies that conflict with these standards.
- Noncompliance Procedure: will result in discontinuation of the funding from the Alliance and appropriate disciplinary actions depending on the case.



INQUIRIES

Valerie Wojna, MD	Core Leader	valerie.wojna1@upr.edu
Michelle Martinez, PhD	Developmental Project Director	michelle.martinez@uccaribe.edu
Antonia L. Ortiz,BS, MT,CHS	Core Coordinador	Antonia.ortiz@upr.edu, 787-759-0306 Ext. 227