



## Methodology Pilot AIDS Research Center (M-PARC) Award

### 2022 Request for Applications

#### **Key Dates**

Items	Date Due
RFA Released	January 25, 2022
Applications Due	March 31, 2022 at 11:59 pm PST
Notification	April 20, 2022
Estimated Period of Performance	May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023

The University of Washington Behavioral Research Center for HIV ([UW BIRCH](#)) invites pilot study applications focused on research methodologies to help understand and ameliorate the confluence of challenges created by mental health and substance use disorders with HIV risk and infection.

#### **Purpose**

Mental health and substance use disorders are leading causes of morbidity and excess mortality among people living with or at risk for HIV around the globe. Optimal responses to the mental health needs of people living with or at risk for HIV require an understanding of the determinants of and processes underlying mental health, as well as knowing how, where, and when to intervene.

The purpose of the BIRCH M-PARC awards is to advance new methods in research related to mental health and HIV. Responsive applications will propose either a new methodological approach, or a novel application of existing methods. Proposed methods may be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods. We expect that this pilot work will lead to a larger extramural grant application.

#### **Types of Projects**

Proposals must demonstrate a high probability of generating important new methodological approaches or understanding, and should advance the mission of the UW BIRCH center.

Pilot grant applications should not be an extension of well-established, ongoing, or recently funded studies or projects. Pilot grant applications should not be used as bridge funding for existing work.

Examples of potential research topics include, but are not limited to:

- Measurement research, such as novel measurement of a construct important in the HIV context.
- Innovative exploration of the intersection of HIV, substance use, and mental health in populations with elevated risk of HIV.
- A new approach to community engagement.
- Integrative data analysis (IDA) or individual participant data (IPD) meta-analysis methods that pool data from multiple studies to evaluate research hypotheses with greater statistical power.
- Integrating intensively recorded mHealth data from wearable devices or smartphone apps and behavioral intervention research.
- Methods to identify and prioritize barriers to implementing evidence-based interventions for mental health, substance use and HIV.

Proposals with clear links to integrated care needs of community partners and/or specifically about understanding and addressing health disparities will be prioritized.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicants must be a current member of the UW faculty or a PI-eligible research scientist at UW.
- This mechanism is open to both early-career investigators as well as more senior researchers
- All Applicants must become BIRCH members

We highly encourage applications from members of [underrepresented](#) groups. If you have any questions about eligibility, please reach out to [uwbirch@uw.edu](mailto:uwbirch@uw.edu)

### **Budget**

One award of up to \$45,000 in direct costs for a one-year project is available from the UW BIRCH M-PARC program. All allowable expenses must adhere to applicable University of Washington policies. Examples of allowable and unallowable expenses are listed in Table 1 below. Please contact your department's finance lead with any budgetary questions.

*Table 1.*

Allowed expenses include:	Unallowable expenses include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personnel (i.e., salaries and benefits for faculty, research staff and students)</li><li>• Equipment, materials, and supplies</li><li>• Travel, including air fare, transportation,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patent costs</li><li>• Office supplies</li><li>• Hosting expenses (e.g.,</li></ul>

<p>and per diem lodging, meals and expenses (subject to all UW travel policies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition for graduate students</li> <li>• Other direct costs related to the project (must detail the expense and include rationale)</li> </ul>	<p>receptions, alcohol)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing efforts</li> </ul>
--	---

## **Application Format**

### **Applications must meet the following standards:**

- Submitted as a single PDF file
- Paper size no larger than standard letter (i.e., 8 ½" x 11")
- Margins of at least 0.5 inch (top, bottom, left and right)
- Single-spaced
- Highly readable eleven-point (or larger) sans-serif font
- Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%
- We do not require a specific citation format

### **Each application must contain the following sections (using the M-PARC application template located on the BIRCH website):**

1. Completed cover sheet: project title, total budget, applicant names)
2. Abstract (250 word maximum)
3. Research Plan (three pages, excluding references – see suggested page limits for each section below)
  - a. Specific Aims – 0.5 page
  - b. Background and Significance – 1 page
  - c. Methods – 1.5 pages
4. Research team, timeline and future plans – 1 page
5. Budget and budget justification – 1 page
6. Letters of Support are not required, but will be accepted. Limit of two.
7. NIH biosketch of the PI or MPI team.

## **Review Criteria**

Successful pilot grant applications will demonstrate the following:

- Work toward the development of a new methodological approach or application
- Proposed method is clearly linked to research challenges in integrated study and care of mental health or substance use in populations living with or at risk for HIV
- [NIH criteria and scoring](#) (Significance, Approach, Innovation, Investigator, Environment)
- Potential to lead to future funding (low, moderate, high)

### **Pre-Award Requirements**

Per NIH policy, UW BIRCH may not release pilot research funds until awardees complete the NIH administrative clearance process. Clearance will require final IRB approval from all participating institutions and documentation of human subjects training from all investigators. This process may take several weeks, so please consider it in your timeline. More information on NIH requirements for international studies can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/foreign/index.htm>

*Projects that are unable to complete the NIH clearance process within one year of award date are at risk of losing funding*

### **Post-Award Requirements**

- Acknowledgment of UW BIRCH support in publications, presentations or other outputs resulting from the award.
- Presentation of the study findings in the collaborating schools/departments
- Two-three sentence narrative summary of the project and a two paragraph, lay-friendly description of the project, results, and next steps
- Permission to use photos and data on UW BIRCH website and promotional materials

### **Contact Us**

Please contact us with any questions regarding this pilot research grant or the application process: **Angela Marler, BIRCH Program Manager** [uwbirch@uw.edu](mailto:uwbirch@uw.edu)

### **Submission Instructions**

Please fill out the M-PARC application template and submit all application materials as **one PDF file** to [uwbirch@uw.edu](mailto:uwbirch@uw.edu) by 11:59 PM PDT on Thursday, March 31, 2022. The application, letters of support, and any other supporting documentation must be combined into a single PDF.