



**Children's
National**

Global Health Initiative

2024-2025 Request for Applications

EXPLORATIONS IN GLOBAL HEALTH PILOT AWARDS

This award program funded by the Global Health Initiative (GHI) aims to improve health outcomes in resource-limited settings and favorably position Children's National (CN) employees to obtain extramural funding in pediatric global health research. Projects which address key pediatric global health issues are particularly encouraged.

Funding of \$1,000-\$20,000 (over 18 months) will be considered for applications that demonstrate high-impact and achievable aims, a robust mentorship program to develop new global health research talent and/or new intra-institutional partnerships, and a detailed plan for securing follow-up extramural funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Projects must be conducted in a **low or middle-income country (LMIC)** on a **pediatric topic of importance** to that country and/or address broader pediatric global health challenges. Proposals to study a health issue in a developing country that could be studied using a US population are not encouraged.

At least one member of the applicant team must be a Children's National employee. Medical students and volunteers can be listed as additional investigators but both mentor and mentee must be employed by Children's National.

*It is **strongly encouraged** that potential applicants meet with the GHI team to discuss their proposed project.*

Please reach out to GHI at ghi@childrensnational.org to schedule a meeting.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Trainee Mentoring
2. Faculty-to-Faculty Mentoring
3. Interdisciplinary Research

IMPORTANT DATES

September 15th - November 30th, 2023 Rolling Applications Accepted

November 30th, 5pm Application Period Ends

January 10th, 2024 Awardees Announced

January 17th, 2024 Projects Begin

June 30th, 2025 Funding Period Ends

TRAINEE MENTORING AWARD

What is this award for?

This award mechanism is targeted towards cultivating research skills in trainees by providing mentoring and a sentinel research experience abroad to kick-start careers in global health.

The award aims to facilitate the obtainment of pilot data which is then applied to a larger award application for the trainee and supervising faculty member.

Who is this award for?

GHI supports research and global health training for residents and fellows by pairing them with an experienced global health investigator (with a track record of extramural funding and global health publication).

Award Details

- Trainees may suggest their own mentor.
- Trainees must demonstrate an interest in research in resource-limited settings.
- Trainees must have written support for the project from their manager of residency/fellowship director.
- Trainees should spend 4+ weeks doing on-the-ground research at their project location.
- Trainees must have a local mentor at their project site in addition to their CN mentor.
- Applicants must include a plan for submission of a competitive extramural award application to support ongoing global health research within 12 months of completion of pilot award funding.

EXAMPLE OF A PAST TRAINEE MENTORING AWARD PROJECT

A 2nd year cardiology fellow worked with her mentor to develop a project studying the ability of non-experts to conduct focused echocardiographic screening for RHD. She spent 6- weeks in Uganda, published a first author paper (BMJ Heart), and was featured on a podcast.

Additionally, she supported data collection leading to 2 additional manuscripts for the fellow and faculty mentor. Her data were used to successfully apply for an award from Gift of Life International to study the impact of a RHD support group on normalizing quality of life following RHD diagnosis.

FACULTY-TO-FACULTY MENTORING AWARD

What is this award for?

This award aims to foster the development of global health interest among CN faculty and staff through a mechanism that encourages staff-to-staff mentoring by pairing an experienced global health investigator (with a track record of extramural funding and global health publication) with a less experienced, or non-funded, investigator seeking mentorship in collaborative, interdisciplinary research.

Who is this award for?

GHI supports research and global health training for CN junior investigators by pairing them with an experienced global health investigator. Trainees may be included in the research team, but the focus must be on the global health research development of the mentored staff member.

Staff members seeking mentorship must:

- Demonstrate an interest in research in resource-limited settings.
- Have the written support of their division chair for completing the proposed project.
- Find an experienced global health researcher who has a record of significant extramural funding in global health as a Principal Investigator (PI) who shares scholarly and/or research overlap with the mentee.
- Include a plan for submission of a competitive extramural award application to support ongoing global health research within 12 months of completion of pilot award funding.

EXAMPLE OF A PAST FACULTY-TO-FACULTY MENTORING AWARD PROJECT

In Homa Bay and Turkana Counties, Kenya, a junior Children's National research staff member with little global health experience partnered with a senior HIV faculty member with extensive global health experience to conduct focus group discussions with adolescents recently diagnosed with HIV.

This project augmented a larger existing implementation and research project led by the senior HIV faculty member. The data collected for both led to several presentations and a publication. This research additionally contributed to the development of a toolkit to improve the care of adolescents living with HIV and is being distributed by EGPAF, UNICEF, and WHO.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AWARD

What is this award for?

This award mechanism is designed to support new collaboration and partnership in global health research across our institution by supporting pairs or teams of interdisciplinary researchers seeking to complete global health research.

This award mechanism may be used to obtain pilot data needed for a larger award application.

Who is this award for?

GHI supports internal capacity building in global health research by supporting the collaboration of Children's National researchers and investigators.

Award Details

- All principal investigators must have the written support of their division chair for completion of the proposed project during academic time.
- At least one PI must be a CN employee.
- At least two of the PIs must differ in their discipline and area of expertise.
- Applications must include a plan for submission of a competitive extramural award application to support ongoing global health research within 12 months of completion of pilot award funding.

EXAMPLE OF A PAST INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AWARD PROJECT

In 2019, an experienced infection control researcher designed a program to demonstrate that improving accuracy for hospital-onset infections is feasible in a pediatric intensive care unit in China and can be tailored to individual institutions and locations.

Successful program completion together with enthusiasm from local pediatric intensive care staff and support from local hospitals led to a planned program roll-out to more than 20 hospitals in the surrounding area as well as joint grant applications to support continued interdisciplinary research.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

15 points possible

Significance of the Project to Advance Pediatric Global Health (0-5)

Does the applicant provide a clear background regarding the problem to be studied?

What has been done so far?

What questions need to be answered?

Does the study address a significant pediatric global health problem?

Could this work be just as easily accomplished working here with a US population and alternative sources of funding?

Scientific Merit of the Proposal (0-5)

Are the aim(s) clear, concise, and measurable?

Are the aim(s) feasible given the small award?

Are the conceptual or clinical framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate for the aims of the project?

Opportunity & Plan to Leverage Research for Extramural Funding (0-5)

Do the investigators provide a sound and convincing plan for use of the data/outcomes from this study to seek additional research funding?

If the aims of the application are achieved, what is the likelihood that data will contribute to a high quality application for subsequent funding?

REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

1. Recipients will meet on a quarterly basis with the GHI research advisory committee to provide an update on project progress.
2. Recipients will provide GHI with a written report of results, outcomes, and benefits produced by this funding award within 30 days of the completion of the project, and all unused funds must be returned to GHI.
3. Recipients will give a seminar or talk on their project work (GHI will coordinate) at a GHI SIG or other such forum.
4. Recipients will provide consented photos, interviews, blog posts, or other materials related to their work to assist GHI with communications about this project.

Any application, abstract, publication, or other product generated from research supported by this funding mechanism must acknowledge CN GHI by name or otherwise as appropriate.

2024-2025 APPLICATION

Applications should not exceed 5 pages (excluding references, biosketches, & letter(s) of support). Submit applications as a single PDF file by email to: msherman@childrensnational.org by November 30th, 2023 (11:59pm).

Award Category

Trainee Mentoring Award - *application should be submitted by mentee*

Faculty-to-Faculty Mentoring Award - *application should be submitted by mentee*

Interdisciplinary Research Award - *application may be submitted by an team member*

Proposal Title:

Applicant Name(s) and Division(s)/Institution(s):

Project Objectives:

Contingency Plan for Unforeseen Project/Travel Disruption (if applicable):

Project Summary (3-4 sentences)

A general description of the research and its relevance to pediatric global health research. Include key methodologies/approaches to be utilized in the proposal in this summary. The information in the summary will be used to identify proposal reviewers with the appropriate expertise and will also serve as a project description to be posted on the GHI website should the project be selected for funding.

Research Plan/Project Description (up to 2 pages excluding references)

Include specific aims followed by significance, innovation, approach, and ethical considerations.

Proposed Project Timeline and Milestones

Details of the project timeline beginning with award date and estimated time to IRB approval.

Local Partnership and Engagement

Describe the site where your project will take place, any local collaboration and support, and the plan for local ethical approval.

Personal Statement (up to 1 page)

Submitted by applicant mentee for trainee and mentoring awards and by any investigator(s) for interdisciplinary award. A description of how global health research fits into the applicant(s) academic goals.

For mentee awards please also include:

- 1. Why you need a mentor.*
- 2. A plan for a meaningful mentoring relationship, including an estimated time commitment from your mentor.*

For new interdisciplinary partnerships, please include the structure of this collaboration and the division of responsibilities among investigators.

Plan for Extramural Funding

Describe your plans for future global health research, how this funding mechanism will advance these goals, and your plans for application for extramural funding to support these efforts.

Budget (up to 1 page)

Please indicate how much funding you are requesting from this award program (\$1,000-\$25,000). Cannot include salary support for CN staff/faculty/trainees. Travel costs limited to <25% of the full budget. If costs exceed this amount, please provide justification. If other or additional funding exists for this project, please detail those funding sources and amounts as a separate budget.

Applicant(s) Biosketch(es)

Statements of Support

- 1. Statement of support from involved division chair(s) or program director(s)*
- 2. Mentor statement of support (mentoring awards only)*