Overview

The Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness is pleased to announce that it is now accepting proposals from Harvard University faculty, research scientists, and postdoctoral fellows for Innovations in Positive Health pilot grant funding. The funding will support pioneering research at early stages of development that focuses on positive health science or communication and translation sciences related to positive health science. Priority will be given to projects that involve high pay-off in terms of opening new areas of inquiry or providing crucial preliminary data for preparing larger grants proposals (e.g., to the NIH).

This year, the Center is requesting applications that focus specifically on recovery and resilience related to public health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and structural racism, among others. The focus of funded research should be on the public health aspects of these crises.

The events of the past two years have highlighted the gaps in our knowledge about resilience and healthy functioning. In addition, they have reinforced our commitment to gaining a clearer understanding of the distribution of positive well-being throughout society and some of the key factors that influence who is more or less likely to attain it, even amidst a crisis. While it may seem odd to focus on well-being in times of profound suffering, this global pandemic has taught us the importance of maintaining and promoting a focus on positive health because it lays a critical foundation for not only surviving hard times, but thriving and even bouncing forward after hardship. With this focus, we are interested in research designed to gain greater insight into the promotion of well-being and resilience in a crisis, as well as the “silver linings” that may come from lessons learned and recovery. The research could involve data collection, but could also focus more on the development of a framework or a scoping study. Within this umbrella, we are particularly interested in:

(1) the relationships between prosocial behaviors (e.g. kindness, compassion, empathy) and health outcomes;
(2) equity, health, and positive well-being; and
(3) social media and its impact on health and well-being.
Applications that focus on other areas may be considered. Awards will be granted for amounts between $10,000 and $50,000. The amount of award is dependent on the nature of the project. Funding can be used to cover research-related expenses, such as: investigator and research staff salary support, obtaining access to existing data, data collection activities, conference presentations, and travel (with prior approval). Both domestic-based and international research will be considered.

Eligibility

This is a competitive grant program. It is open to all Harvard University faculty, research scientists, and post-doctoral research scholars. Hospital-affiliated Harvard faculty should reach out to the Center to confirm eligibility. Students are not eligible to apply for these funds. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact the Center’s Assistant Director, Jaime Mchunu, at jmchunu@hsph.harvard.edu

Projects will be prioritized for funding when they: 1) integrate the theories, questions, and methods of two or more disciplines; 2) involve high payoff in terms of opening new areas of inquiry or provide crucial preliminary data for preparing larger grant proposals; or 3) explicitly connect faculty and scholars across departments and schools.

Selection Process and Criteria

The Center Co-Directors will screen all submitted proposals to determine whether the proposals meet the Center’s goals. Proposals that pass this initial screening will undergo formal review by a grant review committee.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals:

- The focus of the proposed research on the topics of interest to the Center and the overall focus on an asset-based approach to health and well-being;
- The overall quality of the proposed research;
- The potential of the proposed research to be expanded into an externally funded grant application, or to significantly enhance the research capabilities of Center researchers to secure external funding;
- Proposed research that crosses disciplines and solidifies ties between Harvard schools and departments.

To apply:

Please submit a proposal of no more than 5 pages that covers the following:

1. Title of the Project
2. Name of Investigator(s)
3. Degrees
4. Position Title
5. Mailing Address
6. Department/School
7. Telephone/Email
8. Statement on Human Subjects/IRB

All research involving human subjects must have approval from the applicable institutional IRB. All investigators must be trained and certified in the responsible conduct of research involving human subjects. If your research involves secondary data, you more than likely will need to apply for an exemption. If you are ultimately awarded funding, we will need either the IRB protocol number or exemption number before an account can be set-up. IRB must be obtained within six months of award.

9. Detailed Project Proposal, addressing the following questions:

   a) What are the aims of the project?
   b) Why is the work important?
   c) What has already been done in this area?
   d) How are you going to do the work?
   e) What is your timeline for completing the work? Note that the project must be completed by **July 2024**, or 24 months from the date of award (projected award date: July 2022).
   f) Explain how your research will help advance the vision of the Center: to transform thinking in public health and medicine from a deficit- to asset-based approach, with the goal of achieving positive well-being, health, and happiness globally for all.
   g) What is the end-product?

Please indicate the type of deliverable product to come out of the project. These could include: (1) presentation of findings at national meetings; (2) organizing research workshops and poster days related to disseminating work in progress; (3) submission and publication of manuscripts emanating from the research in peer reviewed journals; and (4) preparation of larger grant proposals for external funding.

Please include the following appendices (outside of the 5-page limit)

10. Key Personnel/Collaborators. List and provide NIH biosketches or most recent CV (limit 5-pages)
11. Literature Cited (Complete citations, including titles and all authors)
12. Proposed Line Item Budget. The maximum funding awarded will be up to $50,000. Please provide an accompanying budget justification.

   a) Salary Requested
b) Fringe Benefits

c) Equipment (include computer and software purchases)

d) Supplies/Materials

e) Travel

f) Other Expenses

13. **For postdoctoral fellows** – please have your mentor send a letter of support. The letter should be sent directly to the Center at jmchunu@hsph.harvard.edu.

Each funded investigator will need to prepare a mid-term report and a final report of the project for submission to the Center.

**Deadline:** Electronic copy *(one single PDF)* due by 4:00 PM on Friday, **April 15, 2022**

Anticipated notification of award: June 2022

Anticipated award date: July 2022

Submit to: Jaime Mchunu
Assistant Director of Operations & Strategy
Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness
jmchunu@hsph.harvard.edu