



Request for Applications: Cancer Prevention and Control Program Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for four one-year pilot grant research proposals, each with a budget of up to \$50,000, to support innovative projects within the Cancer Prevention and Control Program. This initiative aims to foster cutting-edge research that aligns with our program's mission and promotes collaboration across disciplines.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center focuses on precision prevention and population health, with an emphasis on addressing the unique challenges faced by rural and underserved populations in Nebraska. We seek proposals that will contribute to our three primary aims:

- Identify and understand the biological, environmental, behavioral, and social drivers that impact cancer risks, with emphasis on disparities and rural/frontier populations.
- Discover novel screening methods for early cancer detection and develop and implement interventions to modulate and prevent cancer.
- Improve function and health-related quality of life of cancer survivors through research in survivorship and symptom management.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be researchers affiliated with the University of Nebraska Medical Center or its partner institutions.
- Applicants Should be Members, Associate Members, or eligible for membership of the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Cancer Prevention and Control Program
- New faculty (instructors or assistant professors within 4 years of their initial position) are strongly encouraged to apply and must include a letter of support from their primary mentor.
- Projects should demonstrate potential for future extramural funding (e.g., NIH, DOD, or Approved Foundations).

EXPECTATIONS FOR COLLABORATION

- Intra-programmatic Collaboration: Proposals that demonstrate collaboration between members of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program will be viewed favorably. Interdisciplinary approaches that leverage diverse expertise within the program are highly encouraged.
- Inter-programmatic Collaboration: Projects that foster collaboration with other research programs at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (e.g., Cancer Biology and TMDP) will be viewed favorably.
- Participation in Cancer Prevention and Control Retreat: As part of the commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing within the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, at least one member of the applicant's research team is expected to participate in the Cancer Prevention and Control retreat scheduled for February 13, 2025. This retreat will provide an opportunity for:
 - Networking with fellow researchers and potential collaborators
 - Sharing preliminary findings and receiving feedback from peers
 - Learning about the latest developments in cancer prevention and control research
 - Aligning research goals with the program's overall objectives
- Buffett Cancer Center Community Engagement and Outreach (BCC COE) Integration: Proposals must address how they will interact with the Buffett Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement and community stakeholders. Specifically, applicants should:
 - Outline plans for engaging with BCC COE resources and expertise
 - Describe strategies for incorporating community stakeholder input
 - Explain how the proposed research aligns with BCC COE priorities
 - Detail plans for disseminating findings to the BCC COE and relevant community groups

- Projects that demonstrate strong potential for synergy with BCC COE initiatives and meaningful community engagement will be viewed favorably. Applicants should consider how their research can contribute to the BCC COE's mission of reducing cancer disparities and improving cancer outcomes in Nebraska's diverse communities.
- *Strategic Thematic Areas: The FPBCC has a special interest in submission that address the following Special Areas of Emphasis (SAEs). The purpose of identifying these SAEs is to encourage submissions in focus areas.*
 - **1. Community-Engaged Research:** *The BCC and its Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) are charged with the development of research that incorporates the input of and directly serves the needs of the population within our catchment area, which includes the entire state of Nebraska. Projects demonstrating evidence of interaction with the BCC COE are a funding priority. Refer to the [COE webpage](#) for additional information and resources.*
 - **2. Priority Cancers:** *The BCC COE has identified several cancers that pose significant incidence, morbidity and/or mortality burdens and disparities in Nebraska and represent important opportunities to improve cancer outcomes for our catchment population. Sites for comprehensive growth: **Brain, Breast, GI (Colorectal and Pancreas), Lung, and Prostate.** Sites for additional growth: **Heme Malignancies and Melanoma***
 - **3. Strategic Thematic Areas:** *The BCC is strategically focused on the following four transcenter research themes and applications relating to these themes are strongly encouraged:*
 - **Rural and Frontier Health**
 - **Obesity and Nutrition**
 - **Novel Cancer Therapeutic Interventions**
 - **Precision Prevention and Medicine**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Project title and abstract (300 words max)
- NIH Biosketch
- Specific aims and hypotheses
- Background and significance
- Preliminary data (if available)
- Research design and methods
- Timeline for completion within one year
- Budget and budget justification
- Plans for seeking future extramural funding
- Description of intra- and inter-programmatic collaborations
- Mentoring plan (for junior faculty)
- General Formatting Requirements: Minimum 0.5-inch margins and Arial 11-point font are required. (Smaller type size may be used for figures and legends.)

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on: Scientific merit and innovation, Alignment with program aims, Potential for future extramural funding, Strength of collaborative approach, Feasibility of completion within the one-year timeframe and Potential impact on cancer prevention and control in Nebraska.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: April 1, 2025

Award Notification: June 1, 2025

Project Start Date: July 1, 2025

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please see the complete detailed instructions that follow
For questions or additional information, please contact:

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We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals that will contribute to our mission of improving cancer prevention, early detection, and survivorship outcomes for the people of Nebraska and beyond.



FULL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submit the following by email to buffetccancercenter@unmc.edu April 1, 2025

1. NIH Form Page 1: Face Page (signed by authorized institutional representative)
2. NIH Form Page 2: Project Summary
3. NIH Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period
4. NIH Form Page 5: Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period and Justification
5. NIH Biosketch of PI and Primary/Secondary Mentors
6. Abstract (200 words max) (for dissemination purposes if awarded)
7. Specific Aims (1 Page)
8. Research Strategy (6 pages maximum)
 - Significance,
 - Innovation,
 - Approach,
 - Statistical Analysis Plan
9. Future Funding Plans (Explain how the completion of the study and data obtained will be used for future funding)
10. Project Timeline (Outline major milestones for project completion over the one-year timeframe and include regulatory)
11. Description of Mentoring Plan (Briefly describe the mentoring plan, including the role of the mentors on the project and the nature and frequency of communication between the Principal Investigator and the nature and frequency of communication between the Principal Investigator and the mentors.)
12. Community Outreach and Engagement Statement (Brief description of how the proposed work interact with COE and the community, suitable for lay audience; highlight expected timeframe of community impact)
13. Human Subjects Protection Plan (if applicable)
14. Vertebrate Animals Section (if applicable)

15. Letters of Support (as needed)
16. IRB/IACUC approval or submission documentation (if applicable)

REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on: Significance and potential impact, Investigator qualifications, Innovation, Approach and methodology, Environment and institutional support, Alignment with FPBCC CPCP objectives, Potential for future extramural funding, Collaborative approach and Community engagement and stakeholder involvement

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- At least one team member must attend the Cancer Prevention and Control retreat on February 13, 2025
- Projects should address interaction with FPBCC Community Engagement and Outreach

Applicants are encouraged to consult with relevant FPBCC cores during proposal development. For questions, contact buffettcancercenter@unmc.edu