



Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care: Pilot Grants to Increase Treatment for Substance Misuse in Baltimore

Pilot Grant Program 2016-2017

1. Research Objectives

The overall goal of the 2016-2017 Brancati Center Pilot Research Grant Program is to support research related to substance misuse in Baltimore City. The Center seeks to fund novel but mature research plans that have potential to provide convincing data that will either (1) offer ways to immediately improve community-based care or (2) garner external funding to support more definitive work on substance use in urban settings.

Substance use, including alcohol, cocaine, opioids, tobacco, and other drugs, remains a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Baltimore City. Deaths due to intoxication have continued to rise since 2010, with the largest increases related to opioids. Substance use/misuse is often co-morbid with mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, trauma which can further complicate the identification and treatment of these co-occurring conditions. Finally, substance use is a risk factor for HIV and Hepatitis C acquisition and poorer treatment outcomes.

Individuals living in Baltimore City recognize substance use as a major problem in their community. Participants in a recent East Baltimore based survey most frequently cited drug use and alcohol use as major community health problems, followed by hypertension and depression. They also cited substance use treatment as an important community health need. Importantly, when asked their preferred way to access health resources, participants frequently cited churches, community centers, schools and other alternate locations to a clinic. Over half also expressed interest in using the internet to gain health information.

There continue to be gaps in understanding the best ways to optimize approaches to prevent and treat substance use, particularly in underserved communities. Identifying gaps that are largely translational, extending from basic sciences to clinical applications, and from clinical applications to community dissemination and implementation is particularly important.

Pilot studies of substance use can include biological, genomic, social, and behavioral sciences, or effectiveness research involving dissemination and implementation. The target may include individuals, families, healthcare practitioners or systems, retail health care facilities, and/or communities.

Project ideas in the very early stages without any evidence base or conceptual framework are not well suited for these awards. Successful applications will be based on sound evidence from the literature and will demonstrate a framework that creatively fills identified knowledge gaps. The Brancati Center pilot research grant awards are thus meant to move well-conceptualized and theoretically-supportable ideas forward with data that provide “proof of concept.”

One award of \$25,000, for one year, will be made. Guidelines are included in this document.

2. Pilot Research Request for Applications

Application and Submission Information

Pre-application consultation

It is recommended that a potential applicant consult briefly with a Brancati Center leader to determine the extent to which the submission fits the goals of the pilot program. This may be done by first contacting Megan Brown, Brancati Center Program Manager at mbrown61@jhmi.edu, with your intended study objective; you will then be put in touch with a member of the leadership group.

Applicant eligibility: Full-time faculty in any of the Schools in the JHU system are eligible; Instructors and Assistant and early Associate Professors will be given stronger consideration.

Center Leadership:

Jeanne Clark, MD, MPH, Executive Director
Eric Bass, MD, MPH, Co-Director of Education
Geetanjali Chander, MD MPH, Director of Research
Raquel Greet, MD, MHS, Co-Director of Education
Nisa Maruthur, MD, MHS, Director of Community Partnerships

Content and Form of Application Submission

In general, applications will follow the general form of a National Institutes of Health 398 form, although with different page limitations noted below. The maximum total page length for **non-administrative** portions of the application is 8, including tables, text and figures.

- Structured abstract (maximum 1 page) which should include:
 - a brief background of the project;
 - specific aims, objectives, or hypotheses;
 - the significance of the proposed research and relevance to public health;
 - the unique features and innovation of the project;
 - the methodology (action steps) to be used;
 - expected results; and
 - a brief statement of plans for future use of the pilot data.
- Specific Aims (maximum 1 page)
- Background (maximum 1 page)
 - the state of existing knowledge with literature citations and highlights of relevant data. Preliminary study data are not required.
- Research Strategy (maximum 5 pages- Significance, Innovation, Approach, Plans)

- **Significance:** rationale of the proposed research; explain gaps that the project is intended to fill; and potential contribution of this research to the scientific field(s) and health.
- **Innovation:** why the proposed concepts and methods are novel; focus on innovation in study design and outcomes.
- **Approach:** experience relevant to the application and the experimental design; overview of the experimental design; a description of methods and analyses; discussion of potential limitations and how these will be overcome; expected results; timetable (work plan); feasibility; discussion of the way in which the results will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted; a description of any new methodology.
- **Plans:** how this pilot will enable the next step in the research process that will lead to implementation of care in the community.
- **Administrative Pages** (no page limits, conciseness is preferred)
 - Bibliography and References Cited
 - Protection of Human Subjects (IRB status can be pending)
 - Targeted/Planned Enrollment where subjects are involved
 - Letters of Support (Advisors/Consultants, no more than 3)
 - Resources (1/2 page)
 - Budget and Justification (use form provided)
 - Principal Investigator Biographical Sketch, including education, current position, publications, grants, and relevant honors and awards.

Formatting

On each page, write the name of the Principal Investigator in the header on the left, and the title of the proposal on the right. Please prepare applications with at least 0.5 inch borders, in Arial 11 point font or Calibri 11 point font, single spaced and in the same order as the above sections. The total of 8 pages includes all tables and figures. Appendices are discouraged.

Submission Dates and Timetable

Submit electronically in one continuous PDF form to Megan Brown at mbrown61@jhmi.edu. The deadline for submission is **February 1, 2017**. The projected start date for these awards is April 1, 2017.

Budget

Use the attached one-page form to submit budgets. Please provide direct costs only. A brief budget justification is requested. A maximum of \$5,000, including fringe, may be used for the Principal Investigator.

Award

Funding is available for one award, with a maximum budget of \$25,000 for one year, with one year renewal under exceptional circumstances.

Application Review

Reviewers will consider each of the review criterion listed in the determination of merit and responsiveness to the intent of the RFA for Brancati Center Pilot Research Grants. Reviewers will be selected from experts in the field, and all applications will be reviewed and scored. A Research Committee will review the recommendations and select based on merit and program priorities, particularly on the potential to yield a larger research scope with pilot study completion. Applicants will receive a brief summary critique of their proposed projects.

Criteria for Review

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the pilot project to meet the goals of the Brancati Center.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the prevention and/or management of substance use in the context of disparities? Will the pilot data offer new scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or improve community based care?

Investigator(s). If early or mid-stage investigators, do they have appropriate experience and research training related to the proposed project?

Innovation. Does the pilot project move to improve on gaps in current research or community care by using novel conceptual frameworks or approaches, and/or methods?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses appropriate to garner usable data from the pilot study? Statistical power and sample size calculations are not necessary for this proposal.

Inclusiveness. Does the project demonstrate engagement or information from the target population and/or community? Does the project address the needs of certain populations or issues related to disparities in diabetes knowledge? Does the project address issues relevant to the City of Baltimore?

Environment, Advisors, and Consultants. Does the scientific environment contribute to the probability of success? Are there expert advisors and consultants to assist in completion of the project?

Human Subjects Concerns. Are there any ethical or privacy concerns, and if so have they been adequately addressed?

Brief Description

Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care 2015-2016

Begun with a gift from Walgreens in honor of Dr. Fred Brancati, a noted and admired diabetes researcher at Johns Hopkins, The Brancati Center is a collaborative effort to improve the health of communities with disparities in disease prevalence, socioeconomic status, risk factors, environmental resources, and access to care. The goal is to partner with our neighborhoods to best integrate the resources of the community, health care systems, various healthcare providers, and policy-makers. Through our shared work with community, we are dedicated to serving Dr. Brancati's legacy for care and collaboration.

Community Partnership: The Brancati Center will foster collaborative service-based partnerships that identify and address health and wellness needs of communities, in communities, especially in medically underserved areas.

Education: The Brancati Center will develop educational activities that bring together a wide range of healthcare professionals and community members with the goal of improving community-based care. Training for health professionals in community care and skills training in the community to improve local access and marketable job skills are being promoted.

Research: We will foster research that extends from the biology of diseases that are overrepresented in our neighborhoods, to social and interventional work.

Brancati Center Pilot Study Budget

Name Principal Investigator:

Title of the Project:

Funding Period:

Personnel				
Name	Title	Role on Project	% Effort	Salary plus fringe
	PI			
Total personnel.....				
Equipment (specify) (a single item of \$5000 or more)				
Total equipment.....				
Materials and Supplies (itemize, estimates are fine)				
Total materials and supplies.....				
Other (itemize, estimates are fine)				
Total Other.....				
Overall Total.....				

Budget Justification

Personnel

Equipment

Materials and Supplies

Other (this includes any participant reimbursement, required local travel, or testing)

Brancati Center Pilot Awards Submission Cover Page

Project Title: _____

Applicants Name: _____

Position: _____

Department/Division (primary): _____

School Medicine Public Health Nursing Other (specify)

Johns Hopkins Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone/Pager: _____