Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives (HFHL) Institute
Spring 2016 Request for Proposals
University Research Grant Program

The University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives (HFHL) Institute is an all-university Institute supported by funds from the University of Minnesota. The mission of the HFHL Institute is to increase and sustain the University’s impact in the interdisciplinary arena of food, agriculture and health by building the University’s capacity in research, learning and community engagement. The priority areas for focus are food protection (safety), prevention of obesity and diet-related disease, food policy and food security. Within these priority areas, of special importance is the integration of agriculture and health sciences.

The major goal of the HFHL Institute is to utilize and help build the strengths of the University of Minnesota in the area of food and health to advance scientific and public knowledge and influence public policy. One of the mechanisms used is funding interdisciplinary research teams whose goal is the development and implementation of cutting edge extramurally funded research and training programs.

FOCUS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The HFHL Institute is requesting applications for small research grants to fund new, interdisciplinary faculty research teams. Funds will be distributed through a competitive review process. The grants to be funded through this program must utilize novel and innovative approaches to answer potentially high impact research questions. The proposal should be highly interdisciplinary, including members from at least three distinct disciplines, and the research should have a high potential for growth and for becoming self-supporting over time. Up to one award will be made to a research team working in each of two grant categories. Each proposal must fit into one of two priority areas described below.

GRANT CATEGORIES:
- Food protection (food safety); or
- Prevention of obesity and diet-related disease

PRIORITY AREAS:
All proposals must fall within one of two priority areas:
- Integration of agricultural & health sciences. We are looking to fund innovative teams that seek to understand the health outcomes of agricultural activities. We encourage the formation of project teams that represent both agricultural sciences (plant and/or animal) and health sciences (public health, nutrition, medicine, veterinary medicine, etc.). Contributions from project team members from the social and behavioral sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, etc.) will also be important for many projects.
- High potential to directly inform meaningful change, including programmatic, environmental and/or policy-level change. This can be demonstrated by including an institutional or governmental partner on the project team, through letters of support, through faculty track records in impacting or creating policy change, etc.

FUNDING
Up to two grants will be awarded. Each grant will be awarded to an interdisciplinary team for a project with a maximum total cost of $50,000/yr. Funding is eligible for two years. Second year funding will be dependent upon acceptable progress and availability of funds. Alternatively, applicants may request one year of funding for $100,000, but justification must be strong. Projects should be faculty-led, focused on well-defined problems, and should assemble an interdisciplinary team for basic, translational or policy research. Funds should be requested to produce preliminary data for future funding from outside sources. A high priority will be to fund new collaborations and team development.

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Appropriate uses of the funds may include, but are not restricted to:

- support for graduate students, or other research personnel
- shared equipment
- laboratory supplies
- database or other infrastructure development
- purchase of support services for research

The funds should be designated for the direct support of research, but they may not be used to support a currently funded ongoing program. It is extremely important that the applicant makes clear that this is a new research project and not a continuation of ongoing research. In addition, funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries nor indirect costs. The department of the principal investigator will be expected to administer the funds. The funds must be spent within the allotted time period, although no-cost extensions will be allowed with appropriate justification. Expected performance criteria include successful carrying out of the work plan, building on competitive advantages, developing new synergies among research teams, publications demonstrating interdisciplinary research, submission of a proposal for extramural funding, generation of significant preliminary data, integrating the research with teaching and activities related to public impact, demonstration of policy impact, and training of graduate students/postdoctoral fellows. Requests for second year funding will be evaluated with these performance criteria in mind, and projects that have not shown success by these criteria will not be awarded second year funding.

PLEASE NOTE: (1) PIs will be expected to attend one of HFHL’s Fall Research Symposia (a conference on Native American health and nutrition or a conference on the topic of Food, Microbes and Human Health—dates TBD) and include the costs for attendance in their budget. The total cost of attendance is approximately $150/person, plus any travel expenses incurred; (2) After the funding period, HFHL sends periodic requests to grantees to complete surveys that help keep up-to-date records about outcomes and accomplishments related to grantee research—grantees are expected to complete the surveys; (3) HFHL requests that all grantee publications, including research publications, press releases and other publications or documents about research that is funded by HFHL must include a specific acknowledgment of HFHL grant support, including a grant award number, if provided.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Faculty members from any University program or department are eligible to apply for these grants. However, it is important to understand that this RFP is intended for support of multi-disciplinary, multi-investigator (faculty teams) proposals. A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which he/she would be the PI or co-PI. There is no limitation to the number of grants on which a faculty member could participate as an investigator or other role.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

- HFHL Proposal Routing Form (PRF) for Research Grants (to be completed by University principal investigators and co-investigators and shared with the HFHL Institute via Google Drive. (For information on how to use Google Drive: https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2424384?hl=en. Please note, the PRF should NOT be routed through Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA). Please download PRF from the HFHL website: http://www.hfhl.umn.edu/grant-programs/university-research. Submission instructions are included on the PRF. Please allow yourself one–two weeks to complete the PRF. Should you need any assistance, please email: hfhl@umn.edu
- Copy of the completed and submitted "Determination of Human Subject Research" form, which can be found here: http://www.irb.umn.edu. It is highly encouraged that Co-PIs jointly work with the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) to determine whether or not the project requires IRB approval and if so, Co-PIs will be required to obtain approval before beginning the project.
- Minimum font of eleven
- Title Page: must include title plus list of all investigators with their roles (PI, co-investigator, etc.), affiliations (department, college, etc., or other affiliation), and contact information (email, address, telephone), as well as the grant category and priority area into which the proposal falls.
- Abstract (not to exceed 300 words)
- Research Plan (not to exceed 3 pages, excluding references)
  - Statement of Hypothesis and Specific Aims
  - Background and Rationale
  - Preliminary Results (if applicable)
  - Research Design and Methods
- Budget and budget justification
- Biosketches for the principal investigator(s) and co-investigators
- Letters of support from collaborating investigators for whom there is not a biosketch or who are outside the University of Minnesota
- References
- The following questions must be addressed separately from the proposal, on one page
  - How does this proposal fit into one of the two priority areas?
  - Why is an interdisciplinary team necessary to carry out this work?
  - How is this proposal highly innovative?
  - What is the potential impact of this proposal?
  - What future research might this project lead to that could be funded externally?
  - What are the potential future external sources of funding?

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS INCLUDE:
- Fit within a grant category and one of the two priority areas
- Interdisciplinary work
- Significance and potential impact
- Innovation
- Expertise and track record of members of the research team
- Intellectual merit of the proposed research
- Identification of specific extramural grant opportunities and potential for external funding
- Leveraging of resources
- Appropriateness of budget
- Graduate student involvement and support

REVIEW PROCESS:
The HFHL Institute Director will select the reviewers, with advice from the HFHL Advisory Board. The review panel will include faculty members from multiple colleges and disciplines, and may include external reviewers. Recommendations of the review panel will be submitted to the HFHL Director for final decision and approval.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
1. The deadline for submission is **5:00pm, Friday, April 15, 2016**. By the deadline, an electronic copy (pdf) of the grant application must be emailed to hfhl@umn.edu.

2. Awards will be announced by **May 31, 2016**. Funding will commence **June 1, 2016**.