

Announcement

The Health Equity Research Advisory Council is now accepting applications for the Health Equity Research Presentation Travel Fund.

The Health Equity Research Advisory Council (HERAC), a joint committee composed of research leaders from Novant Health and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine (UNC-SOM), are sponsoring up to five research travel awards to reimburse up to \$1,650 each for investigators interested in presenting health equity research relevant to Southeastern North Carolina to an academic or community outlet.

To be eligible, applicants must be employed by either by Novant Health and located in the coastal region, defined as the New Hanover Region and includes Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender counties OR employed by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Applicants must also have a research project regarding health equity in southeastern North Carolina accepted for presentation at an academic or health conference, or community event. Eligible events may occur in any location, but the research presentation to be funded must center on southeastern North Carolina.

Request for Applications

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) is an innovative, joint committee composed of research leaders from Novant Health, Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NH-NHRMC), the University of North Carolina Health Care System (UNC Health), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine (UNC SOM). The RAC was established according to the Academic and Clinical Affiliation Agreement (Affiliation Agreement) implemented in connection with the Novant-NHRMC Asset Purchase Agreement. The RAC and its sub-committee, the Health Equity Research Advisory Council (HERAC) are focused on promoting health equity research addressing issues relevant to Southeastern North Carolina.

The HERAC Research Presentation Travel Awards are designed to support researchers in disseminating health equity research relevant to southeastern North Carolina by funding travel to relevant outlets where the research has been accepted for presentation. Awards will provide up to \$1,650, to reimburse travel, lodging, conference registration, and food.

If you are interested in applying and have questions, please contact Natara Dulaney at Natara.Dulaney@novanthealth.org.

1. Purpose

Despite notable improvements gained because of technological advancements in medicine, there continues to be an alarming disproportionate burden of illness among historically marginalized populations. The purpose of this award is to support the dissemination of research that promotes health equity who have been traditionally under-represented or excluded in health research or disproportionately affected by illness and lack of access to medical care (e.g., people who live in rural areas, populations with low socioeconomic status; people with disabilities; people with mental illness and substance use disorder; older adults; the LGBTQ community; African American, Native American, Asian American, and Hispanic populations). We are seeking applications from investigators with a project related to health equity in southeastern North Carolina that has been accepted for presentation at an academic or community outlet.

II. Key Dates

There is no singular deadline for this award. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until all funds have been awarded, or until June 1, 2025, whichever occurs first.

III. Funding and Eligibility

This funding opportunity is supported from the financial commitment set forth in the Affiliation Agreement and approved by the Affiliation.

Applications must:

- (1) come from an applicant employed by Novant Health and located in the coastal region, defined as the New Hanover Region and includes Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender counties OR employed by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine,
- (2) have health equity research relevant to southeastern North Carolina accepted for presentation at an academic or community outlet.

Individuals eligible for this award must be listed as an author on the project that has been accepted for presentation and must be able to present the given research independently.

Eligible costs include conference registration, lodging, travel, printing, and food. While applications may be submitted in advance of payment, funds will not be paid out until reimbursement requests from Concur are provided.

IV. Review Criteria

Primary review criteria include: (1) the extent to which the research to be presented addresses health equity in southeastern North Carolina, and (2) the likelihood that the proposed outlet would disseminate the research among the relevant stakeholders.

V. Application Process

Applications must be submitted using the NC TraCS [online grant portal](#). Once in the system scroll down to the section titled “Health Equity Research Presentation Travel Fund” and click “Apply,” or use the “quick search bar” at the top to search. Application sections (except the Abstract) will be uploaded as individual PDF files. The application sections are:

- **Abstract** – A brief abstract of the research to be presented. The abstract as submitted to the proposed event is sufficient.
- **Description of the Outlet** – A short summary (a few sentences) of the proposed presentation outlet, whether academic conference or community event.
- **Statement of Contribution** – The presenter should clearly state their role in the research to be presented, as well their ability to independently present the research. This statement should be signed by all other authors named on the presentation.
- **CV or Biosketch of the Presenter**
- **Invitation to present at conference/event**