

## **Health Access Research Presentation Travel Fund**

### **Announcement**

The Health Access Research Advisory Council is now accepting applications for the Health Access in Southeastern North Carolina Research Presentation Travel Fund.

The Health Access Research Advisory Committee (HARAC), 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 \$1,000 each for investigators interested in presenting research around health access concerns 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 as a faculty member by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Applicants must also have a research project regarding health access 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.

The applicant, as defined above, must attend the presentation. Remaining funds may be used to cover the travel of additional research team members, including students and trainees. All costs must be listed under eligible expenses below.

### **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 Access Research Advisory Committee (HARAC) are focused on promoting research to understand and improve relevant health challenges related to access to primary care, specialty care, community health, and optimal wellbeing in Southeastern North Carolina.

The HARAC Health Access in Southeastern North Carolina Research Presentation Travel Fund is designed to support researchers in disseminating health access 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 \$1,000, to reimburse travel, lodging, conference registration, and food. Applications should be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the date of travel.

If you are interested in applying and have questions, please contact Kiran McCloskey at [KMcCloskey@NovantHealth.org](mailto:KMcCloskey@NovantHealth.org).

#### **1. Purpose**

All individuals deserve access to consistent, high-quality healthcare and the opportunities necessary to achieve optimal health and wellbeing. Yet despite notable improvements gained because of technological advancements in medicine, there continues to be an alarming number of gaps in clinical outcomes and

wellness, driven by barriers in access to care and other health opportunities. The purpose of this RFA is to facilitate research that promotes access to the highest quality of care for all. Access refers to the opportunity for all individuals to obtain the highest level of health and wellness. We are seeking applications from investigators with a project related to health access in Southeastern North Carolina that has been accepted for presentation at an academic or community outlet.

Examples of the types of projects appropriate for this RFA include, but are not limited to:

- Projects that address barriers and facilitators related to achieving the highest level of health for all groups, including but not limited to historically underrepresented populations.
- Projects that test interventions to address social drivers of health.
- Methods and strategies for increasing inclusion of all populations in research.
- Pilot efforts that will lead to developing, testing, and disseminating multilevel interventions to achieve the highest level of health and healthcare access.
- Pilot efforts to improve screening rates and preventive care.
- Projects that address methods to engage community in research.
- Develop and test community-level interventions to reduce gaps in health and wellness outcomes.
- Observational research to understand the role of the social and built environment in causing and sustaining gaps in health and wellness outcomes.

## 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.

## 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 as a faculty member by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine,
- (2) have health access 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. The applicant, as defined above, must attend the presentation. Remaining funds may be used to cover the travel of additional research team members, including students and trainees.

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 access concerns 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 Access in Southeastern North Carolina 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.
- **Relevance to Southeastern North Carolina** – A short summary (a few sentences) of how the project centers Southeastern North Carolina (e.g., community engagement, recruitment from the region).
- **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**