



IMHR Funding Announcement Fall 2022 Grants Program

The Institute for Mental Health Research (IMHR) is pleased to announce the Fall 2022 grant competition in which we will award up to \$600,000 in grants for innovative research in mental health. These grants are available to credentialed investigators in the state of Arizona associated with any recognized research or health institution in the state. This funding mechanism is specifically meant to seed, through substantial pilot activity, research that will lead to significant subsequent funding from federal agencies such as NIH or NSF or other major national philanthropic organizations.

IMHR was established in 2001, and over the past 20 years has encouraged and supported innovative seed research in mental health that has both advanced the field and led to major national funding to pursue more extensive efforts. The successes to date have been remarkable. IMHR has provided over \$2.5 million to Arizona scientists, and this investment in state scientific talent has resulted in greater than a 10:1 return on investment. We hope to continue that success with this funding opportunity.

Priority Areas of Interest

For this call for applications, IMHR is focusing on five broad areas: *1) child and adolescent mental health, 2) aging and mental health, 3) addiction, 4) the intersection of mental and physical illnesses; and 5) mental health disparities relevant to Arizona.* Although applications can address any aspect of the areas described above, IMHR is especially interested in approaches that involve prevention science, personalized intervention, informatics, and use of technology in mental health. Applications can range from basic to clinical research within the priority areas noted, but applications *must be clear* about which area is being addressed. Applications that address multiple areas are encouraged.

Levels of Support

There are two levels at which applications may be submitted:

- **Level 1 Awards** support larger scale *multidisciplinary* projects with funding up to \$125,000 for 12-24 months. Level 1 Awards are appropriate for applications that require more complex design, measurement, and analyses, and for which multidisciplinary science provides the most robust approach. We anticipate making one to three Level 1 Awards.
- **Level 2 Awards** will support more limited-focus seed research efforts, with funding levels of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for 12 months. Multidisciplinary research efforts are encouraged, but not required for Level 2 Awards. We anticipate making four to six Level 2 Awards.

IMHR Grants Program Expectations

The goal of IMHR's grants program is to support novel, relatively small-scale, early stage research projects that support subsequent initiatives sponsored by federal agencies and philanthropy, and bring research dollars to Arizona scientists. To that end, all IMHR grantees are expected to pursue subsequent larger scale funding from national sources that follows-up on the successes of their IMHR-supported research.



IMHR has a history of supporting new, or early career investigators, and we continue to value the importance of assisting the early career development of mental health researchers in AZ. We encourage early career scientists to apply for support as Principal Investigators, and the inclusion of more experienced investigators as co-investigators is encouraged.

IMHR is proud of the economic impact its support of AZ investigators has brought to Arizona. The more than 10:1 ratio of awarded federal support to IMHR support has brought additional millions to the AZ economy. Further return on investment is also possible through the creation of technology or other programs that can be developed to create economic benefits to the state and local economies. Applications for IMHR grant support that may involve discovery with economic implications are particularly welcome.

Application Instructions

Level 1 grant applications will have a maximum allowable length of 6 single-spaced pages, and Level 2 applications will be limited to 5 pages maximum. Applications at both levels should include the following sections: (1) An Abstract (250 words) that should be accessible to non-specialists. The abstract does not count toward page limits. (2) Specific aims (1 page, max), (3) Background and Significance, (4) Approach, (5) Timeline and Feasibility; (6) Clinical or Translational Implications, (7) Plans for Larger Scale Subsequent Research Support. The length of each section is determined by the investigator(s) and application needs. A budget with justification (justification is limited to two pages) must be included. Budget and reference pages are not included in the page count. Applications must use no smaller than 0.5 inch margins and 11-point font sizes throughout. NIH-style biosketch (limited to three pages) must be included for key personnel and letters of support from partnering agencies to assure feasibility are required. Biosketches are not required for project staff or consultants. Please note: *IMHR does not provide indirect costs.*

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by members of IMHR's External Council of Scientific Advisors (ECSA) which is comprised of accomplished state and national mental health scientists. Members of the Research and Grants Committee (RGC) of the IMHR Board of Directors may also participate in review as appropriate. Applications will be judged on the extent to which they address IMHR areas of interest; the quality of each of the sections of the application; and the qualifications of the investigator(s).

Critical Dates

Applications should be submitted electronically, and will be due on or before Friday, **February 3, 2023**. Notification of award is anticipated by **Monday, May 15, 2023** or as soon thereafter as the review process can be completed.

Please direct questions and applications to Keith Crnic PhD, IMHR Chief Science Officer, through **operations@imhr.org**.