

# JEFFRESS TRUST AWARDS PROGRAM IN RESEARCH ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

A PROGRAM OF THE THOMAS F. AND KATE MILLER JEFFRESS MEMORIAL TRUST

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE HAZEL THORPE CARMAN AND GEORGE GAY CARMAN TRUST

## OFFICE HOURS – March 8, 2022

### Questions and Responses

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#### Awards:

- How many awards will be given in total?
  - Depends on distribution, will need to address with the Bank/Trustee
- Should the 15% indirect be included in the total \$600K/\$150K or is it in addition to that?
  - The maximum indirect amount for the 3-year award (600K) is \$78,260.87
  - The maximum indirect amount for the 2-year award (150K) is \$19,565.22
- Could we directly apply for the Research Award?
  - You may apply directly to the Research Award.
- My institution is very excited about this new focus but will not be in a position to craft a solid proposal by March 29. Will this focus continue into your 2023 grant cycle?
  - Yes, that is currently the envisioned future of the program.
- What is the role of the Carman Trust
  - The Hazel Thorpe Carman and George Gay Carman Trust supports research focusing on either blood disorders or mental health. Any proposal that speaks to those topical areas will be eligible for support through either the Carman Trust or the Jeffress Trust.
- Can I submit multiple proposals under one or both of the mechanisms?
  - Yes, you may submit but please make sure that the proposals are fully fleshed out and distinct from each other.

#### Eligibility:

- Can a principal investigator who is currently working on a grant funded by Jeffress apply for any of these grants if it is a new project?
  - Yes, you may submit a proposal if you are currently funded by the Jeffress Trust under the previous program. However, the new proposal must be distinct from that funded work.
- Is it possible for a fiscal sponsor to support more than one submission, if the projects are distinct from one another?
  - Yes
- Size of research institution (academic/medical)
  - Small organizations are encouraged to apply, the program is not restricting funding to those organizations that may be larger in size.

- If the organization is based outside of VA, but the work is being done in VA, are we eligible?
  - There may be some organizations that are located outside of VA that wish to apply. It is highly encouraged that the work (research, planning, etc.) is completed within VA. To support the advancement of health equity in the state of VA, the work should be conducted with VA populations and the applicant organization should speak to how their organization is reflective of the VA population.

## **Distinction between the two programs:**

- Is the research award only for established partnerships or is the "general research" also a subcategory of the 2-year, partnership-building award?
  - You may propose a general research question within the 2-year partnership building award. The goal would be to develop the partnership and refine the research questions and approach.
- If the relationship between the two organizations is established, but the project is new and has not been researched would this fall into the two-year "building" program?
  - It does not have to, and an application could be made towards either program. It would be highly dependent on where the partnership stands regarding the development of the research questions and methodology – if the research is established, the team can apply directly to the Research Award.
- What could be some differences between Collaborative Award and Research Award?
  - The rationale between the two programs was that during the landscape assessment it was recognized that there are networks of communities that would like to conduct research but do not have the current capacity/resources to engage in these activities. The Collaborative Award provides that financial support needed for an organization to support the staff time needed to plan and develop partnerships with other organizations and engage in any necessary capacity building.
  - The Research Awards are for newly or previously established partnerships that have identified their questions of interest and the data needed to answer those questions.

## **Partnerships:**

- If two researchers from the same organization apply for the grant, will it be considered collaborative? In this case, do we submit only the first Budget template?
  - The Jeffress Trust is looking to support collaborations between at least two organizations. If two members of the team are from the same institution, they should submit only one budget for their organization.
- Should the project include two different organizations?
  - The Jeffress Trust is looking to support projects that are developed in partnership between multiple organizations.

## **Community Engagement:**

- What is considered “community-led?”
  - Please look to the guidelines that illustrate a schematic of what it means to strive towards being community-led (Figure 2).
- Can you give some examples of community engagement?
  - The proposal should speak to how the community most impacted in the proposed activities are involved in the planning, implementation, and dissemination of the findings.
- What does "community collaboration" when "implementing this approach" mean in the context of general research about identifying/understanding underlying root causes of health inequities? That is, when there is no intervention or program being implemented.
  - How might you engage community members in any aspect of the design? Elevate the value of community engagement in addressing issues, or any other ideas that you have regarding collaboration with the impacted communities.

## **Review:**

- How will the review committee evaluate grant proposals that use secondary data?
  - The review committee will use the same review criteria as described in the guidelines.

## **Tax Status:**

- Many institutions have tax-exempt status under 170c that is equivalent to 501 c 3. Does that satisfy the non-profit requirement?
  - Organizations that are non-profit academic, hospitals, research centers, organizations, and municipalities are eligible to apply.