

**CTSI Requests Applications to fund Clinical & Translational Science Projects – Element E and RC2**

**Background:**

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute of SE WI (CTSI) is applying for renewal of its Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) award. The [FOA](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-293.html) includes two discrete funding mechanisms – the main UM1 award (Element E is part of UM1) and RC2. Element E and RC2 are focused on translational science-based innovative projects. We are seeking investigators at our Hub to submit proposals that may be funded via either of these mechanisms. The selected proposals will be submitted for funding with the overall CTSI UM1 renewal application.

The proposals must align with goals and objectives of the [CTSA program](https://ncats.nih.gov/research/research-activities/ctsa) and strictly meet the requirements below.

**Clinical and Translational Science Research Program (Element E):**

The Clinical and Translational Science Research Program Element will support discrete research project(s) that should address a truly significant roadblock in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS). One project per hub is required.

* Consistent with the NCATS mission to catalyze translation of discoveries, the Program must be focused on CTS rather than on basic discovery research.
* Research project(s) should not only address a translational research question in a particular disease or intervention development/dissemination context, but also provide generalizable CTS innovations or insights that can be applied to other translational research projects and thereby increase the overall efficiency or effectiveness of translation.
* Proposed activities should have relatively quick deliverable timelines, ideally no more than 2-3 years.
* Each CTSA hub has the flexibility to tailor its Program’s research activities to address local priorities; however, focus on a select disease category or disease specialty must be justified as to how it helps achieve the overall strategic goals of the CTSA Program.
* Funding will be contingent on the aims and scope of the proposal as it relates to the overall CTSI application.

**High Impact Specialized Innovation Programs (RC2)**:

The purpose of the High Impact Specialized Innovation Programs (SIPs) is to support the development and demonstration of unique Hub capabilities, research platforms and/or resources to address in a timely manner critical gap areas and/or roadblocks in clinical and translational science at awarded UM1 Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program Hubs. Successful programs supported through this funding opportunity are expected to lay a strong foundation for future adoption and/or dissemination of capabilities to additional CTSA Program Hubs. Specifically, this FOA seeks to support novel approaches in areas that address specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies/platforms, data generation, or novel research methods that will advance clinical and translational science (CTS) and research (CTR) at CTSA UM1 hubs and possibly beyond.

The RC2 application must meet one or more of the following objectives:

* Groundbreaking, innovative, high impact and cross-cutting research, resources and/or activities that address one or more of the CTSA Program Goals and have the highest potential to improve and accelerate biomedical research.
* Programs in Clinical and Translational Science that could fundamentally enhance the research enterprise and that require the participation, interaction, coordination, and integration of activities within a CTSA UM1 hub and possibly beyond.
* Creation of large-scale unique resources and/or development of transformative technologies and/or platforms that can benefit a wide range of projects and/or activities related to CTS locally at CTSA UM1 hubs.
* High-impact discovery-based and hypothesis-generating science.

Examples of SIPs areas include telehealth, regulatory science, clinical informatics, genetics and genomics, pragmatic trials, dissemination and implementation, rural health and health disparities, community outreach and engagement, and other areas of need for specialized programs.

Funding available through this mechanism is up to $500K/year for 5 years. Maximum of two such proposals are allowable with the UM1 application.

Additional details on the application can be found in the [FOA](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-340.html).

**Eligibility**

Any investigator and their teams at any of the Hub locations are eligible to participate in this opportunity.

**How to Apply**

Investigator/ teams can apply to one or both of the above mechanisms. Applicants should submit a Letter of Intent, not more than one page outlining the aims and objectives of the proposal with expected timelines. Please clearly indicate the mechanism you intend to apply. Please submit your letter of Intent to Braxton Keil @ [bkeil@mcw.edu](mailto:bkeil@mcw.edu) no later than June 15th, 2024, by 5 pm CST.

**Review Process**

An internal CTSI review committee will assess submitted proposals. Investigators/teams will be notified if their proposal is viable, and they will be invited for further discussions. Selected submissions will have to write detailed proposal plans as described in the FOAs and submit along with the CTSI renewal application due August 15, 2024. NCATS is expected to make final funding decisions by Q2 of 2025 with the earliest start date of July 2025.

**Contact Information**

For all questions on this funding opportunity, contact [Braxton Keil](mailto:bkeil@mcw.edu) – CTSI Project Manager or

[Amit Gode](mailto:agode@mcw.edu), Director for Strategic and Academic Initiatives.

Key Definitions:

Translational Research (TR): Defined by NCATS as the endeavor to traverse a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease.

Translational Science (TS): The field of investigation focused on understanding the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process.

CTSA Hub: Medical research institutions / academic health centers with CTSA hub awards maintain an integrated research and training environment for Clinical & Translational Science (CTS). The CTSI Hub includes eight partners – MCW, Froedtert Health, Children’s WI, Versiti, VA Zablocki Hospital, UW-Milwaukee, MSOE & Marquette Universities. Hubs play a central role in their local environments where they coordinate and collaborate with multiple “spokes” such as affiliated hospitals, clinics, and community health centers.

References:

UM1 FOA: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-293.html>

RC2 FOA: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-340.html>

CTSA program goals: <https://ncats.nih.gov/research/research-activities/ctsa>