
Milken Institute School of Public Health Research Innovation Awards

Request for Applications

Release Date: January 21, 2025

Due Date: March 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The GW Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) Research Innovation Awards aim to encourage innovation and creativity in public health research and support research initiatives aimed at generating extramural grant funding. Faculty who have a *primary* appointment in GWSPH *and* may serve as Principal Investigators only are eligible to apply for this award.

In general, GWSPH will give priority to applications that serve one of the following areas:

- Collection and analysis of *pilot data* to improve reviewed extramural grant applications
- Promising initiatives responsive to an *active* funding announcement (such as an open NIH RFP)
- Fostering research innovation that can *attract future funding* (demonstrated by RFPs) from a donor agency currently open or expected in the near future
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* which can be addressed as a research topic, through a diverse research team, or research focused on a neglected topic or population
- Research projects by **new/junior investigators** (40% or more of awards will be dedicated to Assistant Professors)
- Investigators who have not yet received an RIA will be given special consideration.

For this specific round of Innovation Awards, the applications must include consideration or a focus on one or both of the following two themes:

- development of innovative research methods across all public health disciplines which will produce novel advances in science for today's most pressing public health concerns; and/or
- innovative application of existing research methods to new settings, populations, target groups or modalities to help address an important public health issue.

Proposals must provide evidence explaining the methodological innovation, potential scientific impact, and importance of the public health problem being addressed.

And for this round, up to two proposals located in (or on) countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region will be reviewed by the [Gill-Lebovic Center](#) for co-funding.

FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The following rules apply to these awards:

- Funding under this mechanism may be awarded for one or two years, and cannot exceed a total of \$25,000 per year (up to a total of \$50,000 total for two years).
- Projects must be completed in the projected time frame and in general funding cannot be

extended.

- The actual award of grants and number of awards made will depend on the availability of funding and the quality of the applications received.
- Funds will not be issued for similar projects currently supported by other funding mechanisms.
- Investigator salary support, rent, and hospitality costs are not allowable budget costs.
- Upon receipt of an award and the Department Chair's approval, up to ten percent of the Principal Investigator's salary support may be available via Department funds (*contingent on department approval – please contact your chair prior to submission*).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Applications should be submitted by **March 21, 2025** in PDF format using Arial 11-point font (1 inch margins) and include:

1. A Research Plan consisting of:
 - a. A half-page summary of specific aims;
 - b. A two-page summary of the project addressing significance, innovation (please specify why it is innovative), and approach/methods; and
 - c. A half-page timeline for project activities and plan for obtaining extramural funding upon completion;
2. An up-to-date biosketch (most current [NIH format](#)) for PI and all Co-PIs listed highlighting the relevance of prior research funding or the proposed project;
3. An up-to-date Other Support for the Principal Investigator including current and pending funding (Other Support, template included);
4. A budget and budget justification (template included).

REVIEW

Applications will be scored by the **GWSPH Research Committee** based on following criteria: (1) innovation (30%); (2) research approach (40%); (3) project team (10%); (4) significance (10%); and (5) potential for leading to a subsequent successful grant application (10%). *Applications not addressing or including one or both of the themes stated above will be considered unresponsive.*

The length of the proposal (1 or 2 years) and the total funding are **not** a criteria that will be considered in the score. **All decisions will be final.**

Decisions of awards will be shared with applicants by **May 16, 2025**.

It is anticipated that work will start by **June 2, 2025**.

EXPECTATIONS OF AWARDEES

Award recipients are expected to acknowledge support of work funded by this program in publications and presentations as appropriate; and respond to an annual survey from ORE. A final report must be submitted to the GWSPH Office of Research Excellence within 60 days of the end of the award. A link to the final report form will be provided via email.

Questions and final applications should be sent to GWSPHResearch@gwu.edu.