



Africa Initiative Pilot Grant Program (AIPGP)

Call for Applications

The Washington University's Africa Initiative is soliciting applications for its collaborative pilot grant program. The purpose of this program is to advance collaborative research in the fields of Health (*communicable and non-communicable diseases, food security, nutrition and agricultural development*) and Human Development (*education, humanities, training and youth engagement; economic development, business and social entrepreneurship; energy, environmental sustainability and wildlife conservation; human rights, conflict resolution and rule of law, urbanization and architectural development*); and to forge meaningful research collaborations between Washington University's faculty members and scholars at institutional partners (both academic and research -based) in Africa.

Submission and Review Process

Award Amount:	Up to \$10,000
Award Duration:	1 year
Applications Open:	September 16 th , 2019
Letter of intent Due:	September 30 th , 2019 (5pm, Central Time)
Full Proposal Due:	November 15 th , 2019 (5pm, Central Time)
Award Decisions:	December 15 th , 2019
Award Start Date:	January 2020

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be full time faculty at Washington University at the time of application.
2. Each applicant may submit only one proposal as a Co-PI.
3. Must have a collaborating institutional partner in Africa.
4. Preference will be given to applicants who can find collaborations across schools within Washington University.

Submission Steps and Instructions

1. Applicants submit Letter of Intent (LOI) by **5:00 p.m. (CT)** on **September 30th, 2019** to nabunyap@wustl.edu. LOI requirements are detailed below. *Early submission, prior to September 30th is encouraged so applicants have more time to prepare full proposal.*
2. Program Director reviews LOIs and responds to applicants by **October 15th, 2019** regarding eligibility of the project for submission of full proposal.
3. Applicants submit full proposal applications (details below) by **5:00 p.m. (CT)** on **November 15th, 2019**. This deadline will be strictly adhered to with no exceptions. An entire copy of the proposal must be e-mailed as a single pdf document to Proscovia Nabunya at: nabunyap@wustl.edu
4. Proposals will be assigned to three experienced scientific reviewers and then evaluated in by the Africa Initiative Program Director and Committee. Applicants will receive a Summary Statement including comments from the scientific peer reviewers and will be notified of funding decisions by **December 15th, 2019**.

Letter of Intent Requirements (Maximum 1 page)

1. Descriptive title of proposed research
2. Overall aim/hypothesis of proposed research (limit to 2-3 sentences)
3. Name, e-mail address, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators
4. Participating institutions and rationale for each
5. Name, title and email address of 3 potential reviewers. Reviewers should not include Co-Is, direct supervisors, or department heads.

Application Requirements

1. [PHS 398 facepage](#) – including department grants administrator contact information. “Official Signing for Applicant Organization” is not required.
2. **Biosketches:** Submit biosketches in [current NIH format](#) for the WUSTL PI/Co-I(s) and Africa-based co-investigator(s).
3. **Research Plan:** Maximum of **6 single-spaced pages for sections A - F** (described below) including tables and/or figures; use Arial 11-point font size or larger; minimum 0.5 inch for all margins for all pages. The following headings should be used noting “N/A” for non-applicable sections:
 - A. Specific Aims** (maximum 1 page)
 - State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved.
 - List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).
 - The aims must be reasonable to achieve during the one-year budget period of the grant.
 - B. Research Significance**
 - Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses.
 - Explain why the project is important to conduct in Africa.
 - Describe the premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.
 - Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - Explain how the proposed project will improve knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.

C. Innovation

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

D. Approach:

- Preliminary Studies. If applicable, discuss the PI's preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application.
- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Describe the research design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.
- Describe how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
- For trials that randomize groups or deliver interventions to groups, describe how your methods for analysis and sample size are appropriate for your plans for participant assignment and intervention delivery.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

E. Plans for Next-Stage Funding: Describe how the data obtained with pilot funding would be used to support a future grant application. If known, include the following: 1) planned specific aims; 2) funding agency; 3) funding mechanism; and 4) anticipated date of submission.

F. Protection of Human Subjects: For any research that involves human subjects, appropriate Institutional Review Board approval will be required before funding is awarded. Follow [NIH instructions](#) in preparing the Protection of Human Subjects Section.

G. Bibliography and References Cited: Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Research Plan. Each reference must include names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon in preparing any section of the application.

The references should be limited to relevant and current literature. Although there is no page limitation, it is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

H. Vertebrate Animals: Use the NIH's Instructions for Grant Applications using [PHS 398, Page 36, Section 5.5.5](#), "Vertebrate Animals" for guidelines.

I. List of key personnel/other significant contributors

Key Personnel are individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not salaries are requested. (These individuals will have effort included on the budget or will be a paid consultant). *If PI is an Established Investigator: Describe how this project will lead to a new direction in your research or is different from your previous work.*

Other Significant Contributors are individuals who have committed to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project but are not committing any specified measurable effort to the project. Unpaid consultants/collaborators should be included if they meet this definition.

- J. **Letters of Support:** All PIs must provide one support letter from their Department Head or Research Director, and one letter from the partner institution in Africa.
- K. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Funding will be provided for items essential to the conduct of the project. Allowable expenses include, participant's incentives, IRB applications, consultation fees, travel to and from a collaborating institution in Africa, lodging and meals for PI/Co-Is and supplies. A detailed budget indicating how the funds will be spent over a one-year period, as well as justification for each expenditure is required.