

Schreiber Family Center for Early Childhood Health and Wellness

Generating Research on Outcomes of exposures and experiences from Womb to age 5
GROW to 5 Planning Grant Initiative
Cultivate Award

Application Deadline: November 8, 2024

Award Project Period: 12 months

Award Amount (up to): \$25,000

Background:

The Schreiber Family Center for Early Childhood Health and Wellness focuses on promoting supportive environments to foster safe, stable, and nurturing relationships for children during the most crucial years of development, from before birth to age five. Increasing awareness and action to elevate the importance of early childhood experiences on health and wellbeing across the lifespan and between generations is at the core of Center strategies. The Center is shifting the focus from Adverse Childhood Experiences to Positive Childhood Experiences fostering Early Relational Health based on emerging science emphasized in the [American Academy of Pediatrics 2021 Policy Statement on Preventing Childhood Toxic Stress](#).

The Center is excited to announce our Generating Research on Outcomes of exposures and experiences from Womb to age 5 (GROW to 5) Planning Grant initiative. The Center will support up to three one-year grant awards, allowing for the collection of pilot data and formation of research teams. The purpose of the GROW to 5 initiative is to increase the competitiveness of extramural proposals for K, R, P, and U- series awards in the following areas of research:

- Building the evidence base for effective strategies, [including universal prevention, targeted interventions, and indicated treatments](#), to break cycles of health and racial inequities or promote safe, stable, and nurturing relationships during early childhood.
- Exploring how Positive Childhood Experiences modify the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, stress (positive, tolerable, and toxic), and structural racism on the brain, biology, and behavior of parents and their children, from conception to age 5.
- Investigating the physical, developmental, and behavioral health impacts of the exposome (including physical and social environments) in which children younger than 5 are conceived, grow, live, learn, and play.
- Advancing evidence-based practices for promoting physical health, mental health, and wellbeing in clinical and community settings among children before birth to age 5
- Exploring, or evaluating, implementation, adaptation and/or dissemination of evidence-based practices to promote health and well-being for children under 5.

Opportunity:

Version: Fall Cycle 2024

The Cultivate Award is for an opportunity to engage family or community members to establish or enhance research partnerships. We encourage submission of proposals that seek to engage families and community members in participatory research collaborations and partner-informed data collection strategies that will strengthen grant submissions.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Investigators must be a faculty member with primary affiliations with Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute and Lurie Children's.
2. Investigators must propose research activities that focus on children from womb to age 5.

Application Requirements:

1. Cover page (1 page limit)
 - a. Indicate the **names and rationale** for the key investigators (principal and co-investigators), **all additional team members** (including TBA staff or key personnel needed), **their clinical division**, any **external partners/community organization(s)**. Indicate **what clinical division will serve as the administrative and financial home for the grant**. Also indicate the **external funding source(s) and type of grant** (e.g., R, U, P) anticipated for the future grant submission. If the future funding source is not firmly determined, indicate potential sources.
2. Abstract (1 page limit)
 - a. Include an abstract of the proposed research, and grant proposal submission planning activities, that clearly describes the background and significance, focusing on the gaps the research project is intended to fill; the proposed approach for the planning grant period, including research methods and other planning activities; and the expected innovation and impact of the externally funded research project.
3. Research Plan (5-page limit; suggested section lengths are listed below)
 - a. **Background and Significance (0.5 - 1 page):** Explain 1) importance of the problem, 2) state of existing knowledge, including any prior research by the current team, 3) rationale for the proposed pilot data collection, planning grant activities, and future research, 4) gaps the research is intended to fill, to increase the viability of receiving external funding, and 5) how the contributions of the proposed research will improve physical and behavioral health outcomes that stem from early childhood experiences.
 - b. **Planning Grant and Future Grant Proposal Submission Aims (0.5 page):** First, list or describe the main anticipated aims/goals of the future grant submission at a high level. Next, list or describe the specific main goals or aims of the planning grant period that will lay the foundation for the grant submission, including aims of the research and collaborative planning activities.
 - c. **Approach (1.5 pages):** Include a description of the family and community engagement activities needed for development of the grant proposal. This should include the methods for any preliminary research (e.g., secondary data analysis,

- No indirect costs (F & A) or professional society dues
- A maximum of \$5,500 in total may be requested for faculty support (equivalent to 2.5% effort using the NIH Salary Cap of \$212,100)
- Support for local travel and food may be requested within the context of community- engaged research or community-based participatory research collation building.
- When relevant, investigators should account for the inclusion of patient-families who use languages other than English (e.g., costs of translation, bilingual staff approved to conduct research in their language other than English).

Review Process:

All proposals will be reviewed by two investigators with relevant expertise and Center Leadership using criteria outlined below. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. All applicants will receive comments on their proposal regardless of funding decision.

- **Significance:** Is the focus of the proposed work important in early childhood (womb to age 5) health or wellbeing? Will external peers likely endorse the proposed significance in peer review?
- **Innovation:** Does the project have novel conceptual, technical, and collaborative ideas? If successful, will the proposed innovations be highly regarded by external peers?
- **Approach and Feasibility:** Does the proposed work presented in the context of a theoretical framework or logic model? Can the proposed work be completed in a year to the extent that it will lead to a competitive extramural award application within 18 months of the project start?
- **Investigators:** Is the proposed leadership justified and appropriate for the eventual small or large grant application proposed? Are the investigators synergistic and multi-disciplinary?
- **Impact:** Is the project likely to have a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved? Can the potential impact be conveyed to external peers to endorse extramural funding?
- **Likelihood of External Funding:** Will the planned activities contribute to the development of a competitive small or large grant proposal? Have the investigators identified appropriate funding source(s) for their planned grant submission?

Award Conditions:

- If IRB approval is required, funding may start up to eight weeks after notice of award.
- If investigative teams obtain new support that overlaps with the proposed work, the award will be relinquished prior to the end of the project period.
- All funded teams will be expected to
 - Present their project activities and progress to the Schreiber Center leadership (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A) at 3-months, 9-months, and the conclusion of the funding period.
 - Submit a written final report to the Schreiber Center
 - Notify the Schreiber Center leadership of publications and funding obtained because

of this award.

- Award is for a one-year period. A no-cost extension of up to six months may be applied for and are granted with specific approval from Schreiber Center Leadership.
- Progress reports are required at the end of the project period (12 months) and 1 and 2 years after the end of the project period.
- All applicants may be asked to revise or resubmit an alternative plan based on review feedback.
- Publications and presentations that result from funding should include the following statement:
"This work was supported by The Schreiber Family Center for Early Childhood Health and Wellness GROW to 5 Award and Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago"

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility: Proposals should incorporate meaningful IDEA practices across the project team and proposed activities. This will be a consideration during the programmatic review.

Questions: Please contact [Michelle Macy, MD](#) for questions related to project proposals and applicability to awards.

Administrative support is provided by the Office of Research Development. Contact manneresearchinstituteiga@luriechildrens.org with questions about the application process or forms.

Applicant resources, including an FAQ document, are available on the [Internal Funding Opportunities](#) webpage.