

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

Nourish Award

Application Deadline: November 8, 2024

Award Project Period: 12 months

Award Amount (up to): \$50,000

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:

The Nourish Award is for an opportunity to support the advancement of junior faculty who are pursuing mentored career development awards ((K01, K08, K23, K99/R00) from the NIH, AHRQ, or similar opportunities from other national organizations. We encourage submission of proposals that include career development activities or coursework, including but not limited to grant writing workshops and methods courses.

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 be faculty within the first 3 years of their terminal degree or completion of their clinical training program.
3. Investigators must propose mentored 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 mentors), **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., K or equivalent) 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 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 career development and research activities needed to strengthen the candidate's career development award proposal. Additionally, the description should include details of the mentorship team that will contribute to the future grant submission.
 - d. **Career Development Plan (0.5 page):** Explain how the future career development award will include training and coursework relevant to one or more of the Schreiber Center *areas of research emphasis* listed on Page 1. Describe how the training or research activities will impact the candidate's career trajectory and in the future lead to positive change or patients, providers, the healthcare system, or communities. Describe any potential products or tools that will result from this research, including if the solution will result in any protectable intellectual property.
 - e. **Timeline (0.5-1 page):** Describe how you envision your work, starting with the receipt of these funds to submission of a future grant proposal within 18 months, including milestones at six-month intervals. Include how the research team will be organized (e.g., working all together, separated into smaller workgroups) to fulfill the goals of the GROW to 5 award.
 - f. **References:** not included in the page limit. Use one of the standard citation formats. Limit references to no more than 2 pages.
4. **Budget/Use of funds:** Awardees will receive up to \$50,000 in direct costs on a one-time basis, appropriate to the scale of the planning grant activities and intended follow-on external funding. Outline the proposed use of planning grant funds. There are no indirect costs allocated to these projects. Please follow all rules regarding allowable and unallowable costs found listed in the Use of Funds section of the RFP.
 5. **Current/Pending Support:** Indicate if there is overlap of funding between current sources of funds and the proposed project.
 6. **Biosketches for principal investigators and co-investigators**
 - a. See [Biosketch Guidance Resource](#) and [Developing a Strong Biosketch](#) for Early Career Investigators.
 - b. Contact a [Research Navigator](#) with questions.

Application Instructions:

Submit complete application materials prior to the deadline using the link on the [Internal Funding Opportunities](#) webpage.

Budget Guidelines:

- Budgets should be submitted on [PHS398 NIH format form page \(4\)](#)
- A budget justification should be included with the application. See [Budget Justifications](#) for guidance and an example [NIH style detailed budget justification](#).
 - 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?
- **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 career development award application within 18 months of the project start?
- **Planned Career Development:** How will the career development activities build toward a stronger and more successful K-series application?
- **Candidate and Mentorship team:** Is the candidate appropriate for the grant application proposed? Do the mentors demonstrate commitment to the candidate? Are the mentors synergistic in their support of specific aspects of the candidate's career development plan?
- **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 career development award proposal? Has the candidate 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 one time, 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.