

Funding Opportunities Announcement! New Investigator & Pilot Project Awards for Public Health Systems & Services Research

Cal PREPARE is pleased to announce the availability of funds to fund one New Investigator Award and two-three Pilot Project Awards for Public Health Systems & Services Research. The purpose of the awards program is to establish a resource for new investigators, established investigators and doctoral students to embark on a new area of research. The program provides an opportunity to build capacity, develop competency, and collaboration in different public health networks. (Awardees will have the ability to incorporate specialties, disciplines, and research techniques outside of traditional methods to public health systems research.)

Cal PREPARE is a CDC Preparedness & Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC) based at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases & Emergency Readiness (CIDER). Cal PREPARE's research priority theme is ***“to create and maintain sustainable preparedness and response systems”***.

Our mission is “to conduct all-hazards research, training, and services that (1) improves the biosurveillance capabilities of public health systems; and (2) improves the capability of public health and local communities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.” Within biosurveillance, we will focus on early warning, detection, and monitoring; causal investigations and inference; information and data management, tactical and targeted communications; and situational awareness and decision support.

To implement our mission, we are conducting public health systems research projects in the following areas:

- Project 1:** All-hazards communication to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations;
- Project 2:** Early warning, investigation, surveillance: Epidemiology networks in action (EpiNet);
- Project 3:** Closing the chemical, radiological, nuclear gaps in public health all-hazards preparedness; and
- Project 4:** Cal PREPARE Exercise Laboratory (EXLAB): Systems research using statewide operations-based exercises.

What is public health systems research?

Public Health Systems Research (PHSR) is a field of study that examines the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services within communities and the impact of these services on public health. (Mays GP, Halverson PK, Scutchfield FD. Behind the curve? What we know and need to learn from public health systems research. J Public Health Manag Pract 2003;9:179-82). PHSR is a field of study that takes a multidisciplinary approach to examine issues related to public health through a systems perspective.

The program will fund one (1) new investigator award in the amount of \$30,000 and (2-3) innovative pilot project awards up to \$15,000 for the FY 2011-2012 project period (January 2, 2012 - September 29, 2012). Committee members will be looking for proposals that offer a unique view on public health systems research and can complement one or more of the Cal PREPARE research projects. The application will be released on November 7, 2011. Applications need to be submitted by **5:00 pm on December 5, 2011**. Please see program announcements for specific deadlines.

Cal PREPARE is interested in funding innovative projects. We strongly encourage applicants from diverse disciplines to apply. Some examples of projects that have been funded by Cal PREPARE and other Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs) throughout the country include:

- Mobile Health Technology for Situational Awareness
- Leveraging and Enhancing Inter-organizational Relationships for Disaster Preparedness and Response: A Study of Community Based Organizations Serving Vulnerable Populations; A Focus on the Homeless
- Listening to Local Health Departments: How Past Emergencies Can Inform Future Preparedness Efforts
- Maximizing Emergency Preparedness Communication Access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Translating Research Into Action: Promoting A Culture of Preparedness and Response Through Inter-organizational Relationships and Effective Communication with Community Based Organizations.
- Feasibility and Acceptability of Using 2-way Text Messaging to Improve Response to Critical Events
- A Pilot Study of the Budget-Setting Process across Preparedness Divisions in Public Health Agencies
- First Responders' Beliefs and Attitudes Toward Individuals with Mental Illness During a Disaster
- Effectiveness of Virtual Worlds in Public Health Preparedness Training
- Improving Public Health Preparedness Through Enhanced Decision-Making Environments: Lessons Learned from Preparing for and Responding to the Novel Influenza A H1N1 Epidemic
- Modeling Communication Links Among Public Health Emergency Preparedness Officials in North Carolina using Social Network Analysis: A Pilot Study.
- Hurricane Evacuation Failure: The Role of Social Cohesion, Social Capital and Social Control
- Geospatial Area and Information Analyzer (GAIA), a Visualization Tool for Understanding Emergency Preparedness through Geospatial Analysis
- H1N1 Influenza: Attitudes towards Vaccines and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Drugs—A National Survey
- CODA: Continuity of Operations Data Analysis System for Public Health
- Rapid Access to Public Health Information for Limited English Proficiency Populations through Automated Language Technology
- Assessing and Improving Communication on Influenza Vaccine Safety Reporting for Public Health Systems
- Effectiveness of a Media Campaign to Improve Chinese LEP Individuals' Awareness of Bystander CPR
- Effective SMS Emergency Messaging in Public Health

New Investigator Award

Goal of the New Investigator Award

Cal PREPARE's New Investigator Award Program was created to provide support for upcoming investigators to work on projects that relate to Public Health Systems Research. The award enables new investigators the ability to incorporate specialties, disciplines, and research techniques outside of traditional methods to public health systems research.

It is the intent of the New Investigator Award to provide individuals with the opportunities to develop and expand on research activities with Cal PREPARE Project Lead Investigators and to offer the Project Lead Investigators input and feedback in using different techniques and current trends in research.

A UC Berkeley Cal PREPARE team member will be assigned to provide consultation and assistance to the new investigator.

Evaluation and Critique

New investigator applications will be evaluated on their innovation, research design, background of the new investigator, potential for collaboration, and relevance and synergy to Cal PREPARE's vision and mission. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a potential for further research and can be used in a substantial grant application in the future.

Eligibility

A qualifying individual for the new research investigator award needs:

- (1) Completed their training at a doctoral level from UC Berkeley or the Monterey Institute of International Studies
- (2) Not received NIH, CDC, or equivalent level funding as a Principal Investigator

Deadlines and Important Dates

November 7, 2011: Award Applications Released

December 5, 2011: Application Deadline

December 6-15, 2011: Committee Review

December 16, 2011: Awardees Notified

January 2, 2012 – September 29, 2012: Award Period

Funding Availability

Funds up to \$30,000 will be available for the new investigator award. One (1) award application will be funded for the FY 2011-2012. Funds available can be allocated for professional development opportunities, travel and meeting expenses and other project related expenses such as data collection, supplies, web-phone meetings and other pre-approved expenses. The funds awarded will support direct costs only; no indirect support will be provided. Funds may not be used for equipment and capital expenditures.

New Investigator Application

Applicants for the Cal PREPARE New Investigator Award should submit a completed application packet with a project proposal.

The project proposal should include a detailed description of the project, specific aims, how the project fits into the overall mission and vision of Cal PREPARE, research and design methods, project timeline, and the benefit of the project. Please limit the project proposal to 10 pages.



Application packet should include:

1. Application Form
2. Executive Summary summarizing study design and methods (No more than 1 page)
3. Biosketch, resume, or CV
4. Project Proposal that includes specific aims, background and significance, research design and methods, and references. (No more than 5 pages. Please use 11 point font, double spaced, and numbered)
5. A description of how preliminary data will be used in a future grant proposal.
6. Proposed Budget
7. Budget Justification

Application Submission

An electronic version of all application materials merged into **one PDF file** should be emailed to csiador@berkeley.edu and dysart@berkeley.edu. Application packets need to be **received by 5:00 pm on December 5, 2011**. If you are unable to send a PDF file, please mail the completed packet to:

UC Berkeley Cal PREPARE/CIDER
New Investigator Program
1918 University Avenue, 4th Floor, MC 7350
Berkeley, CA 94704-7350

Deadline for receipt of the completed applications is December 5, 2011 by 5:00 pm. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please submit all components of the application to be considered for funding.

Pilot Project Program

Goal

The goal of the pilot project program is to provide seed money to encourage innovation and creativity to attract new ideas and key personnel into public health systems research focused on creating and maintaining sustainable preparedness and response systems.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Pilot project applications will be evaluated on their innovation, research design, background of the applicant, potential for collaboration, and relevance/synergy to Cal PREPARE's vision and mission. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a potential for further public health systems research.

Eligibility

Qualifying projects can be submitted from:

- (1) Established investigators embarking on a new area of research from UC Berkeley, Monterey Institute for International Studies, state and local health departments in California;
- (2) Doctoral level students interested in public health systems research from UC Berkeley and the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

Funding Availability

Funds up to \$15,000 will be available for the pilot project program. Two to three pilot project awards will be funded for the FY 2011-2012. Funds are available for professional development opportunities, travel and meeting expenses and other project related expenses such as data collection, supplies, web-phone meetings and other pre-approved expenses. The funds awarded will support direct costs only; no indirect support will be provided. Funds may not be used for equipment and capital expenditures.

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Pilot Project Program Application

Applicants for the Cal PREPARE Pilot Project Program should submit a completed application packet with a project proposal. The project proposal should include aims of the project, background and significance of the project, research and design methods, relevant past studies and research activities, how the project fits into the overall mission and vision of Cal PREPARE, and project timeline.

Application packet should include:

1. Application Form
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3. Biosketch, resume, or CV
4. Project Proposal that includes specific aims, background and significance, research design and methods, and references. (No more than 5 pages. Please use 11 point font, double spaced, and numbered)
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