

## **2025 Edward Ellerbeck Implementation Science for Equity Pilot Project Program**

**2-page Letter of Intent Submission Deadline: April 21, 2025, 5:00 PM**

**Oral Presentation by select applicants to ISEC Leadership Committee: May 14, 2025, 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Full Application Submission Deadline for select applicants: July 7, 2025, 5:00 PM**

**Anticipated Award Notification Date: August 1, 2025**

### **Overview**

The Implementation Science for Equity Center (ISEC), a NIH supported Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), is accepting pilot project applications for up to \$50,000 in direct costs. Projects must be in the area of Implementation Science and seek to promote health equity or reduce health disparities in a pressing clinical or population health problem. Clinical investigators are encouraged to apply. The goal of the pilot project program is to enable researchers to explore novel research approaches and to generate preliminary data on the feasibility and potential of implementation science approaches. Proposals should reflect original implementation science research that will be highly competitive for future extramural funding at the national level.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible investigators must hold a faculty level appointment at the University of Kansas Medical Center or the University of Kansas. Highest priority will be placed on promising, early-career investigators who have not had R01 support, in an effort to recruit these individuals into implementation science careers and to prepare them for independent funding. Established researchers are also encouraged to apply if they have a highly innovative idea and if the approach is a significant departure from their prior research. Projects must fall within the broad area of Implementation Science and clearly aim to advance equity in health outcomes. To consider whether your project has an Implementation Science focus, review *An Introduction to Implementation Science for the Non-Specialist*, PMID PMC4573926. For an overview of framing implementation science questions and selecting conceptual frameworks, study designs, implementation strategies, and measures see: <https://impsciuw.org/implementation-science/research/frame-your-question/>

### **Application Process**

#### **1. Letter of Intent – Deadline: April 21, 2025, 5:00 PM**

Letters of Intent (LOI) should be sent to the ISEC Administrative Core, Erin Powell (epowell2@kumc.edu).

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to ISEC Core Directors to discuss their LOI. For contact information please see Further Information below. The letter of intent may not exceed **2 pages** (11pt Arial; 0.5" margins) and must include the following information:

1. PI's name, position title, department/school, contact information, and project title

2. Description of the proposed research including:
  - a. Specific aims
  - b. Prior research experience and project team
  - c. Summary of the proposed methods
    - Emphasis should be given to providing a strong premise for the particular setting in which the implementation question will be addressed and methods for investigating implementation within that setting. Include description of any experience engaging with the target population, partners, or stakeholders.
3. A brief statement of how ISEC cores will be used. Information about the cores can be found at <https://www.kumc.edu/research/implementation-science-for-equity-cobre.html>. ISEC Core Directors may be contacted for additional information.
4. PI's NIH biosketch (not included in 2-page limit)

*The LOIs will be reviewed by the ISEC Leadership Committee and selected applicants will be invited to make a detailed oral presentation of their proposal. Chosen applicants will subsequently receive consultation and mentorship in preparing a full written proposal, including consultation on frameworks, study designs, qualitative methods, biostatistics, and engaging with stakeholders in the implementation setting.*

**2. Selected LOIs will be asked to present their work to the ISEC Leadership Committee and answer questions during a brief oral presentation. Oral presentations will take place: **May 14, 2025, 1:00-3:00 PM****

**3. After oral presentations, selected PIs will be asked to prepare a full written proposal. Written proposals due: **July 7, 2025, 5:00 PM****

Awards are contingent on availability of funds from NIH. After funding decisions have been made, awarded applications will be routed through the KUMC Research Institute Division of Sponsored Programs Administration for approval and signatures before being submitted to NIGMS for final funding approval. Some applications not selected for NIGMS COBRE funds may be considered for available internal funds.

**Written applications are by invitation only based on approved Letters of Intent and oral presentations.** Applications should be prepared using PHS 398 forms and instructions, available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Please use 11-point Arial font and margins no smaller than 0.5 inches. Applications should include the following sections:

1. Form Page 1: Face Page
  - For non-KUMC applications, face page should be signed by your appropriate administrative official.*
2. Form Page 2: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells
3. Budget:
  - a. Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period
  - b. Budget Justification
4. NIH Biographical Sketches for all Key Personnel
5. Research Plan
  - a. Specific Aims (1 page)
  - b. Research Strategy (6 pages) including: Significance, Innovation, and Approach.
  - c. References Cited
6. Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information including Study Record(s)
7. Proof of IRB submission for review
8. Letters of Support (optional)
9. Checklist Form Page (Non-KUMC applications only)

## Funding Parameters

The following budget parameters must be followed:

1. Anticipated budget period is 10/01/25-08/31/26. No cost extensions are discouraged and must receive prior approval.
2. Direct costs may not exceed \$50,000.
3. No more than \$10,000 total may be allocated for salary and fringe of the PI, co-investigators, and other personnel with a faculty appointment.
4. Research project support costs may include research staff costs, supplies, services, external consultants, essential research related travel, participant incentives, and other expenses necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project. Data management and biostatistics costs are covered under the ISEC PRISM Core.
5. Equipment purchases are not permitted.

## Submission

Final written applications should be submitted as a single PDF file to Erin Powell via email ([epowell2@kumc.edu](mailto:epowell2@kumc.edu)) **no later than 5:00 PM, Monday, July 7, 2025.**

## Other Requirements

Proposals selected for funding will be required to have human subjects approval from the Institutional Review Board prior to submission to NIGMS for final funding approval. For this reason, applicants invited to submit a full written proposal are required to submit proof that IRB applications are under review at the time they submit the full application.

## Additional Terms and Conditions

1. When an awardee submits subsequent grant applications, he/she is expected to acknowledge COBRE funding. If the subsequent grant application receives funding, the awardee must provide written notification of the type and amount of funding.
2. Publications resulting from research relevant to ISEC should acknowledge COBRE funding and include the grant number P20GM139733.
3. Pilot award recipients are required to provide information needed to complete the COBRE Annual Research Performance Progress Report and other information as requested.
4. Pilot award recipients will be asked to present their research and provide a brief written progress report for an External Advisory Committee Meeting.
5. Pilot award recipients are encouraged to attend and may also be asked to present at ISEC Club Meetings.
6. Unanticipated new requirements: By accepting COBRE funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on the COBRE grant by NIH or other institutional authorities.

## Further Information

**Administrative and Budget Questions:** Erin Powell ([epowell2@kumc.edu](mailto:epowell2@kumc.edu))

**Project Eligibility and Scientific Questions:**

Christie Befort, ISEC PI: [cbefort@kumc.edu](mailto:cbefort@kumc.edu)

Ed Ellerbeck, Pragmatic Implementation Science Methods (PRISM) Core Director: [eellerbe@kumc.edu](mailto:eellerbe@kumc.edu)

Sarah Kessler, Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core Director: [skessler2@kumc.edu](mailto:skessler2@kumc.edu)

Jason Glenn, Human Subjects & Regulatory (ETHICS) Core Director: [jglenn4@kumc.edu](mailto:jglenn4@kumc.edu)