

**2020 Application for Malawi HIV Implementation Science Research Training (M-HIRST) Program Pilot Grant**

**Due 26th October, 2020**

**DIRECTIONS:**

Applicants are required to submit a **three–page research proposal**. They are expected to spend a significant amount of time preparing this application with the guidance of their mentors.

**Applications should include research questions to advance the implementation of evidence based HIV interventions in Malawi**. Responsive proposals might address:

* Assessment of barriers to implementation of evidence-based HIV interventions
* Piloting of implementation strategies to overcome barriers and improve integration of evidence-based HIV interventions
* Comparison of effect of different implementation strategies to improve integration of evidence-based HIV interventions with other services
* Assessment of costs of implementation of evidence-based HIV interventions

Proposals should **not**:

* Propose to study a new HIV intervention
* Propose a randomized trial or a quasi-experimental design to measure the effect of a new HIV intervention

Please direct any questions about appropriate/inappropriate research topics to the **MHIRST Program Coordinator (**[**mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw**](mailto:mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw)**).**

Applicants are required to submit an application only after thorough consultations with their mentors. Applications submitted without proof of support from an experienced research scientist will not be considered, as a major goal of these pilot grants is to provide implementation research mentor.

Applicants must be Malawian nationals.

**Please note that only 5 – 10 pilot grants will be awarded per year**. The range of pilot grant award sums will vary from US$5,000 – US$10,000 per grant per year. The number of grant awards will depend on the quality of applications – only the highest quality proposals will be funded

Applications should be appropriate for **completion in 12 months** with a limited budget, hence should be small in scope.

**Contact and Institution Information**

Name of **Research** Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) Held:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Current Professional Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Academic Department: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Research Proposal**

# Proposed Research Project Title:

Primary Program Mentor(s):

* 1. Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Mentor Degree(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Mentor Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  4. Mentor Employer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  5. Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  6. Mentor Degree(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  7. Mentor Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  8. Mentor Employer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the applicant currently on any other research grant? (Yes/No)

If the applicant is currently on another grant, please write the title of the grant(s) and their role in the grant(s): e.g. PI, Co-PI, Co-investigator, Research Assistant, etc.:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.**

**A complete application must include all of the following elements:**

1. Research Proposal (DO NOT EXCEED 3 pages, .5” margins, Arial 11 font)

It is expected that applicant reviews the proposed research design extensively with his/her primary mentor. The research proposal should follow the structure below, using the headings provided:

***Objective.*** Briefly (in 1-3 sentences) state the primary objective of your research proposal.

***Public Health Importance*** (1-2 paragraphs). Motivate the importance of the public health problem that your proposal will address (e.g., burden of disease, etc.).

***Evidence-Based Intervention.*** Identify the evidence-based intervention that is a promising approach to addressing the public health problem, but that is currently under-utilized. Be sure to justify the evidence base: What is the literature that tells us that this intervention is a good response to the public health problem?

***Context.*** Define the context in which you wish to introduce or improve the use of this evidence-based intervention (which specific clinics or communities or hospitals). Justify that this is an appropriate place for your study. Justify that the evidence-based intervention is currently under-utilized in this context.

***Barriers.*** Identify the current barriers to implementing the evidence-based intervention in this context. [Note: It is possible that your objective is actually to conduct research to identify the barriers in your context so as to plan for next steps; if so, then state this.]

***Implementation Strategies.*** (If applicable) State the implementation strategy or strategies that your study will test to address the identified barriers and improve the use of the evidence-based intervention in your context.

***Study Design.*** Describe your study design. Include information such as study population, inclusion criteria, sample size, recruitment process, participant involvement (focus groups, interviews, other assessments), length of follow-up, and any comparisons (is group A being compared to group B?).

***Outcomes.*** Clearly identify the implementation outcomes and the patient or client outcomes that you will measure to address your objective. Make sure to justify how you are measuring each outcome (e.g. a pre-existing scale?).

***Public Health Impact.*** Close with a paragraph stating the public health impact that will be achieved by completing this study. What will we know that we don’t know now? What will we be in a position to do next with this information?

***References.*** This is not part of the three-page limit.

1. Budget and Justification (USD$5,000 – $10,000 range, lesser amounts may be viewed favorably)
   1. This should be broken down into the following major headings:
      1. personnel,
      2. equipment,
      3. supplies,
      4. transport.
      5. mandatory institutional overhead fees
      6. mandatory ethics processing fees

These funds should not be used to pay publication or conference travel fees.

1. Timeline for your proposed scope of work. (This should be approximately 12 months).
2. Human Subjects (describe the IRB or NHSRC process and timeline for approval) (1-2 paragraphs)
3. Statement of career goals and how this study supports these goals (1 page single-spaced, .5” margins, Arial 11).
4. Letters of recommendation emailed directly to the MHIRST Program Coordinator ([mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw](mailto:mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw)). One should be from a primary mentor and the other can be from any professional or academic reference. The letters should include a detailed plan for mentorship during the grant period.
5. CVs of pilot grant applicant.
6. CVs of pilot grant applicant’s mentor/s

In order to be considered complete, your application must include ALL of the above as .doc or .pdf attachments in an email to the MHIRST Program Coordinator ([mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw](mailto:mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw))