



From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program: FIRST Coordination and Evaluation Center (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) RFA-RM-20-023

Date: December 16, 2020

The purpose of the FIRST Coordination and Evaluation Center (CEC) will be to coordinate with FIRST Cohort awardees and facilitate the development of strategies to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the FIRST program. The FIRST CEC will collaborate with FIRST Cohort institutions to identify and harmonize a set of common data elements to be used by each institution to facilitate an objective evaluation of the FIRST program goals.

The Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) program (consisting of two components: the FIRST Cohort and the FIRST Coordination and Evaluation Center (CEC)) has been developed to determine if a systematic approach that integrates multiple evidence-based strategies, including the hiring of faculty cohorts with demonstrated commitments to inclusion and diversity, will accelerate inclusive excellence, as measured by clearly defined metrics of institutional culture change, diversity, and inclusion. The FIRST program goals are to: (1) foster sustainable institutional culture change; (2) promote institutional inclusive excellence by hiring a diverse cohort of new faculty; and (3) support faculty development, mentoring, sponsorship, and promotion.

The NIH Common Fund intends to commit an estimated total cost of \$11,400,000 over 5 years to fund 1 award. Complete program details can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-20-023.html>.

The sponsor deadline for full proposals is March 1, 2021.

NIH Technical Assistance Webinar:

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the pre-application Technical Assistance webinar, which will provide an opportunity to clarify expectations for both the FIRST Cohort and FIRST CEC FOAs. The webinar is scheduled for January 25, 2021, from 2:00-4:00 PM Eastern Time.

Additional information will be posted on the Common Fund website at <https://commonfund.nih.gov/first/faqs>.

This is a limited competition. UNM may submit only one (1) application under this announcement. If you are interested in submitting a preliminary proposal please send a

statement of interest with a brief abstract (maximum 1-page) to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NIH FIRST CEC - your name by **noon on January 11, 2021**. Based on the e-mail responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for preproposals. *Only those who responded with a statement of interest by the deadline will be invited to submit preproposals.*

The 1-page abstract must include the following:

- Descriptive title of proposed activity
- Name(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
- Names of other key personnel
- If applicable - Participating partner institution(s)
- Description of the project

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.