The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) invites proposals from interested research teams: all proposed projects must be co-led by at least one investigator at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and at least one investigator at the University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC). *We seek to provide seed funding for projects that will develop into applications for future external funding support.* Anticipated funding start date: September 1, 2024. All proposals are subject to National Cancer Institute approval.

**THE PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CANCER PREVENTION (NACP) GOALS**

1. To reduce the cancer burden within the Native American population through research and community engagement.
2. Expand the number of Native American investigators working in cancer research.
3. Increase the total number of investigators focused on cancer health disparities within the Native American communities of Arizona.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

- **Pilot and Full Project Proposals will be funded.** Total direct costs to be shared between NAU and UACC; the usual funding ratio is 50% to NAU and 50% to UACC. Individual budgets should be calculated for each institution, with renewal for each year contingent on project productivity.

- **PILOT PROJECT PROPOSAL.** Pilot projects should be similar in scope to an NIH R21. We anticipate having funds to initiate one to two pilot projects for three years of funding. Projects may be funded for up to **$120,000 in direct costs** per year.

- **FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL.** Full projects should be similar in scope to an NIH R01. We anticipate having funds to support two full projects for three years of funding. Projects may be funded for up to **$250,000 in direct costs** per year.

**CANCER RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

- Cancer prevention programs, including those that incorporate traditional cultural practices and/or traditional healing (e.g., consumer education regarding healthy foods, effectiveness of traditional healing, translation of cancer information into native languages and digital formats, targeting youths for screening or for tobacco uptake control and cessation, “train the trainer” programs for cancer education interventions in communities, media and social media approaches to cancer education and advocacy, assessments of cancer health literacy and links to screening rates and/or health outcomes)
- Capacity building for Tribal cancer programs (focus on cancer health disparities)
- Specific issues for cancer caregivers
- End of life or quality of life
- COVID-19 and cancer care
- Cancer survivorship issues (e.g., traditional foods for people undergoing treatments, patient navigation programs in Indian health care systems, family models of treatment and care, case management approaches)
- Tribal cancer epidemiology, surveillance, and measurement (improving quality and quantity of cancer data in Tribal communities; approaches to measuring cultural concepts)
- Impact of historical trauma on health and cancer disparities
Basic cancer science research focused on cancers of significance to Native American populations
- Individual health of cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members; factors influencing patience compliance or persistence with treatment; issues influencing provision of care (e.g., geography, economics, language barriers, cultural factors)
- Environmental causes and correlates of cancer (uranium and other mining issues and impacts, exposure to pesticides or industrial-related toxins, indoor air quality related to wood smoke and heating/cooling, water quality, climate change)
- Dissemination and implementation science (e.g., indigenous evaluation methods, community advocacy and outreach effectiveness, closing the loop by sharing research findings with community)
- Resilience and health promotion related to cancer health disparities
- Policy-focused research (e.g., community involvement in identifying needs, collaborating in research design and execution, feedback to policy makers in community, development and validation of indigenous health indices or indicators)
- Clinical trials (e.g., side effects of breast cancer treatments, environmental exposures and correlation with cancer)

INFORMATION SESSION  
March 31, 2023 12:00-1:00 PM

Attendance at the Information Session is recommended for all considering applications, including individuals who have not identified a cross-institutional project partner. The session will be presented by the Planning and Evaluation Core Leaders, Alicia Allen (UACC) and Jason Wilder (NAU). They will provide background information on NACP and describe the requirements/process for proposal application submissions.

LETTERS OF INTENT  
Due: April 14, 2023

The letter of intent (LOI) is required and should briefly describe the nature and scope of the project (one paragraph) and the names and contact information of the co-investigators from NAU and UACC. Because applications will also be reviewed by external reviewers, we ask that the LOIs also list the names and contact information for a minimum of three potential external (outside of both NAU and UA) reviewers with expertise appropriate to the project. Please submit letter of intent to Maria Prevatt (mprevatt@uacc.arizona.edu) by 5 pm on the due date. We will acknowledge receipt. Selected letters will be notified by April 28, 2023.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION  
Due: July 5, 2023

PROPOSAL FORMAT – Proposals should follow the NIH format for the PHS 398 Research Plan for an R21 application. NIH has not yet released the applicable PAR for our Partnership’s submission, however details may be found in PAR-22-249 and in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide. We will notify applicants as soon as the new PAR is released but we do not anticipate major changes in the Research Project requirements. Proposals should contain the following sections in this order:

1) **Title Page and Specific Aims** (1 page limit): Outline the rationale and specific aims of the research project and explain how it fits into the goals and organizing framework of the partnership.

2) **Relevance to NACP/ Benefit to the Community** (1 page limit): Describe how this project will advance the overall goals of the NACP and how Native American students/investigators/collaborators will be involved. Describe the direct community benefit for the research project (see above for information on research priorities for American Indian communities in Arizona, based on exchanges with our Community Advisory Board and the work of our Outreach Core.)
3) **Budget Pages:** For initial and entire proposed period of support, consisting of a separate budgets for each institution.

4) **NIH Biosketch Forms:** For all senior/key personnel and other significant contributors ([link to format page](#)).

5) **NIH Other Support Pages:** For all senior/key personnel and other significant contributors ([link to format page](#)).

6) **Research Strategy** (no more than 6 pages for a pilot project, no more than 12 pages for a full project) to include: (1) Significance, (2) Innovation, (3) Preliminary Studies, and (4) Approach.

7) **Other Project Information:** Please provide responses to [R&R Other Project Information Form #1- #6b](#).

8) **Human Subjects and Clinical Trials:** If you answer yes to Human Subject on the above Other Project form you must submit a complete Human Subjects section including a data and safety-monitoring plan as described in the [SF424 Application Guide instructions](#). Enrollment table that projects the number of participants to be accrued must be also be included. Any research involving human subjects will require IRB approval.

9) **Data Sharing Plan** (2 page limit) Format can be found [here](#).

**Each application must include written "Letters of Support" from the native communities they are engaged with.** Any research involving Native American participants will be required to follow ABOR and university policy on Tribal Consultation.

Proposals are due electronically by **5 pm on the due date.** One complete application package should be submitted per pair of investigators. Applications should be submitted to Maria Prevatt ([mprevatt@uacc.arizona.edu](mailto:mprevatt@uacc.arizona.edu)) in a Word format, with the exception of forms, as needed. We will acknowledge receipt of your proposal and will evaluate if all required sections are included.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PILOT AND FULL PROJECTS**

Proposals will be reviewed by four committees: (1) *ad hoc* (external) reviewers, (2) Community Advisory Board, (3) NACP Internal Advisory Committee, and (4) Program Steering Committee. Investigators will receive written feedback and copies of the reviews. Proposals chosen for funding will be notified by September 2023 and be included in our competitive grant submission (tentative January 2024) to be subsequently approved by NCI.

Proposals will be critiqued using the NIH scoring system: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_system_and_procedure.pdf](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_system_and_procedure.pdf) Proposals will be evaluated based on (1) scientific merit of the research project, (2) strength of the project team, (3) potential of the proposed project to garner independent external support, (4) relevance to Native American cancer related health concerns and (5) overall quality of the written application. Frequent reasons for a project to not achieve a fundable score are: (1) low scientific merit; (2) low relevance to the objectives of the partnership; (3) low potential to develop into an externally funded project/program through competitive peer review.