



Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) Clinical Intervention and Translation (CIT) Core IMPACT: Implementation Award for Clinical Translation

2026 Request for Applications (RFA)

Program Description

The NORC Clinical Intervention and Translation (CIT) Core Dissemination & Implementation (D&I) Award aims to enhance NORC interventional research by adding expertise and outcomes in D&I science. Scientific discovery and its translation to the clinic and the public increasingly require interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers with interventional and D&I expertise, as well as patient partners, to tailor interventions to the target audience and, thereby, maximize the uptake, effects, and sustainability of any intervention. This RFA seeks to support collaborations between NORC members with ongoing or new intervention studies related to nutrition or obesity and experts in D&I science and the services offered by the Adult & Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science ([ACCORDS](#)) and [CU Denver Evaluation Center](#).

IMPACT awards will facilitate a consultation with Monica Pérez Jolles PhD, who is the D&I Lead and a member of the CIT Core team, to guide researchers on patient and community engagement, user-centered design, and designing for implementation and dissemination using qualitative and mixed methods to evaluate clinical and implementation outcomes. The consultation will also refer investigators to any additional resources that could be helpful for their project. This may include contextual frameworks such as the Practical Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model (PRISM) to understand environmental and local external drivers of obesity, identify strategies and monitor fidelity and adaptations during implementation, add suitable data collection methodology such as qualitative methods (e.g., interviews and focus groups to identify barriers to compliance/implementation or feasible and acceptable strategies to overcome barriers), as well as concrete implementation measures and outcomes (e.g., Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation and Maintenance (RE-AIM) outcomes). For studies incorporating clinical intervention and implementation designs, IMPACT will fund use of established, complimentary programs offered by ACCORDS, CIDA, and the CCTSI that provide resources and expertise for conducting D&I research, and use of the CU Anschutz CREST Core to submit your IRB amendment, if needed.

Examples of Work That Could be Proposed

Some examples of projects that could be funded include but are not limited to:

- A parent project designed to develop a 3-month nutrition intervention for amelioration of gout symptoms, utilizing co-design principles, could use IMPACT funds to add assessment of healthcare access and neighborhood characteristics that could foster or challenge the impact of the intervention (e.g., access to healthy foods, distance to healthcare provider).
 - Alternatively, subgroup data analyses could be added to identify whether there is variation in adherence to the intervention diet by individual characteristics such as time since diagnosis, time from last medical appointment, or age at diagnosis.
- A parent study examining a high versus low carbohydrate diet in pregnancy could use IMPACT funds to add focus groups assessing barriers to adherence during the different trimesters of gestation, providing the data to develop a dietary intervention and tailored implementation strategies that can be disseminated more broadly.

- A parent study to test whether exercise can mitigate or attenuate the glucose and lipid impairments due to circadian misalignment could add methods to obtain participants' perspective on barriers and potential solutions, including strategies and adaptations, to enhance adherence to the exercise intervention.

Eligibility

- The proposed project must fall within the NORC Mission to advance the science of nutrition and obesity.
- The contact PI must have a funded human intervention project (new or ongoing), not in the last year of funding.
- An individual may be included as PI on only one IMPACT application in an award year.
- The contact PI must hold a full-time faculty appointment.
- Volunteer Faculty positions are not eligible to apply for awards.
- Principal Investigators must be eligible to apply for extramural funding according to the PI [Academic Rank table](#).
- Postdoctoral Fellows and faculty who are part of the parent project may be included as MPI or co-I personnel but cannot be contact PI. MPIs may run the pilot award but the contact PI must be involved, oversee, and take responsibility for the project and progress.
- Individuals listed in Key Roles must be NORC Members at time of application.
- Projects that cannot readily interact with and leverage resources at CU Anschutz will not be considered.
- Must be a [NORC member](#) at the time of submission.

Budget

Up to one IMPACT award will be funded yearly.

- Up to \$35,000 of required services over 12 months.
- No speed type will be available to the PI for the award, all service costs will be paid directly by the CIT Core.
- Funds may not be used for PI or co-I salary, travel, professional society membership, or food and beverage expenses.
- A small amount of study staff salary may be included only if necessary to accommodate collection of extra measures included as part of this award. Any personnel salary must be rigorously justified in the budget justification. Not all salary requests will be approved as part of the IMPACT budget.

Application Requirements

The project team should [submit online the following](#):

- Completed online project information form, which includes:
 1. Proposal title
 2. PI name/s and titles
 3. PI contact information
 4. PI Biosketch and Other support
 5. Project keywords (at least 3)
 6. The name, grant number, and funding agency of the parent project
 7. Approved IRB protocol for the parent protocol
- Specific Aims page (**1 page limit**) containing the proposal title, study team names, a short background for the proposed project, current limitations and/or data gaps in the parent study that will be addressed, and a list of services being requested for the project.
- Research Plan (**3 page limit**) describing research rationale, significance, innovation, approach, and timeline (up to 1 year) of the proposed project. Please include PI name on the document. This section should be specific to

the NEW project not the parent project (except for points that are important to include for IMPACT study design purposes) and include:

- A description of the data that is needed and that will be collected using these funds.
- A detailed and achievable timeline that does not exceed 1 year.
- Application should specify the grant mechanism for funding that would result from this award, and whether or not it will be part of the next parent application or a separate, stand-alone application (i.e. NIH MPI R01 or other similar grant proposal to an external funding agency).
- Citations must be included within the 3 page limit.
- NIH Biosketch and Other Support documents for each PI.
- Multi-PI plan, if needed (1/2 page), including a description of the collaboration involved, the roles of the MPIs and the overall leadership plan, using the NIH SF424 instructions for the multi-PI plan (from SF424 instructions: *“The governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and the research project should be described, including communication plans, processes for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts. The roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PD/PIs and other collaborators”*).
- Project budget in Excel format.
- Budget justification (1 page) outlining estimated expenses up to \$35,000 over one year.

Review Criteria

Scoring criteria will include:

- Relevance to NORC Mission
- Potential for building long-term working collaborations across those with different expertise.
- Responsiveness to the RFA requirements
- Project potential for extramural funding at the R01 or equivalent level, including significance and impact of the proposed research.
- Funding recommendations will be based on an assessment of the merits and potential impact of each application, which will be reflected in a numerical score by which applications will be ranked. Scoring will use NIH scoring scales and criteria with one additional scorable element: feasibility within the specified one year award period.

Award Requirements

- Awardees must submit in person progress reports at 9 and 13 months post-award initiation. A follow-up survey will be sent 24 and 36 months after pilot award completion and must be completed in a timely manner.
- Awardees are expected to submit at least one co-authored manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal within 24 months of pilot award initiation.
- Awardees are expected to apply for a NIH R01 or equivalent grant within 24 months of pilot award initiation.
- Awardees are responsible for submitting any peer-reviewed journal articles resulting from research funded by this award to PubMed Central, citing the NORC grant number P30DK048520.
- Institutional Approvals: Awardees must obtain research approval from appropriate institutional review bodies, such as COMIRB, and any other regulatory group relevant to their project.
- Awardees may be asked to present their research findings at a NORC event or research retreat after the conclusion of the award.



Proposals will be reviewed by the NORC CIT Core team with extra expertise added, as necessary.
Questions may be submitted to MONICA.JOLLES@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU

Key Dates for applications that are accepted yearly:

[Applications](#) due 12/11/2026

Notification of award 2/20/2027

12-month funding period begins 3/1/2027