

Targeted RFA for Community Outreach and Engagement

UNC Lineberger serves all North Carolina (NC) residents by conducting research that is responsive to North Carolinians' needs and by ensuring that high quality, accessible cancer care is provided to all who need it. UNC Lineberger is the only public NCI-designated cancer center in the state, serving all North Carolinians across 100 counties.

The goal of this request for applications is to support research projects that **meaningfully engage NC communities in cancer research** and that focus on **reducing the burden of cancers that are particularly common in NC** or for which there are clear **racial, ethnic or rural disparities in outcomes** in our state. As described in fact sheets compiled by the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE), for example, cancers with excess mortality disparities in NC, by race, ethnicity or rurality, include: prostate, stomach, myeloma, endometrial, larynx, cervix, breast, colorectal, pancreas, liver, oral/pharynx, thyroid, kidney, esophagus, and lung (see <https://unclineberger.org/community-outreach/catchment/> for more details about cancer burden in NC). Competitive proposals must describe how the work will **engage community stakeholders** throughout the entire research lifespan and will lead to meaningful impacts in NC.¹

How to engage community stakeholders in research



Of special interest are proposals focused on understanding differential incidence and mortality associated with **stomach cancer**, by race and ethnicity. Black, Asian, Native American and Latinx North Carolinians have 1.2-1.9-fold greater risk of developing stomach cancer and 1.8-2.3-fold greater risk of dying from stomach cancer, compared to white North Carolinians. Differences in survivorship for stomach cancer patients is also of interest. Efforts to understand why and how to intervene are needed.

Research topics of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conducting community needs assessments in NC
- Exploring social determinants of cancer incidence or mortality disparities in NC
- Exploring molecular features of cancers that contribute to more aggressive disease in certain demographic populations in NC
- Investigating how cancer therapies' effects may vary in diverse populations in NC or within NC clinical care systems
- Examining the survivorship experience in NC populations
- Developing processes to improve clinical trial recruitment in NC communities
- Piloting behavioral or system interventions to address cancer health equity in NC
- Studying adaptations of evidence-based programs in different NC communities

Proposed projects should be completed within a **24-month time period** and should allow researchers to generate preliminary data to support the submission of federal and/or private cancer research grant applications. UNC Lineberger encourages inter-disciplinary collaboration (e.g., between public health, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, health care administrators, etc.) and community partnership. These funds also may be used to 'top-up' or provide supplemental funds to existing funding sources. Specifically, faculty with start-up funding are encouraged to consider matching funds provided by this mechanism with their own start-up funds to enable completion of projects with larger scope, and applicants with in-kind external funding from other sources for whom this award may enable supplemental activities are encouraged to apply.

¹ We encourage applicants to consult with the COE Office: <https://unclineberger.org/community-outreach/contact/>