Population health research is a critical focus of health care- and public health-organizations nationwide, in alignment with Healthy People 2020 objectives to improve the health of the nation across multiple indicators, with heightened attention to reducing health disparities across at-risk populations. Population health is defined as “a cohesive, integrated, and comprehensive approach to health care considering the distribution of health outcomes within a population, the health determinants that influence distribution of care, and the policies and interventions that impact and are impacted by the determinants” (Nash, Reifsnyder, Fabius & Pracilio, 2011). In alignment with national priorities, key federal funding agencies are also prioritizing research concentrating on population health, such as the National Institutes of Health’s recent funding, in 2010, of ten population health research centers to reduce health disparities in cancer and cardiovascular disease—two of the leading causes of death in the U.S.: http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-announces-ten-awards-centers-population-health-health-disparities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Health Research and Quality and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, likewise, have prioritized funding in population health research.

The Sparrow/MSU Center for Innovation and Research is interested in receiving Letters of Intent for research projects that address population health, including research projects aimed at improving our understanding of health disparities and associated risk factors and health consequences, effective prevention interventions for reducing health disparities across populations, and health care management interventions aimed at improving outcomes within a clearly defined population (e.g., patients impacted by chronic depression). Populations of particular interest include those with diabetes, congestive heart failure, asthma, coronary artery disease, obesity, sickle cell, cancer or chronic pain. Other areas of focus may also be considered.

Given the national public health and social crisis in Flint, Michigan, the Center for Innovation and Research is especially interested in proposals linking those at-risk populations with prevention interventions and health care delivery management interventions to improve health outcomes.
Research Project Letters of Intent (1-2 pages) must contain:
Reviewed for Relevance to Mission and Vision and Priority Areas.

1. Aims
2. Description of study
3. Significance of study
4. **Innovation
5. Relevance to the Mission and Vision of the Center for Innovation and Research should be explained. Relationship to patient care delivery, quality, safety, outcomes, and cost should be described.
6. Relevance to Sparrow Health System
7. **Speaks to gaps in current scientific knowledge, potential to transform care? (Safety, quality, outcomes, and cost)
8. One-year proposal timeline
9. List of research team and affiliation (clearly indicate which team members are from MSU and which are from Sparrow)
10. Budget Estimates – Research Grants typically do not exceed $50K. (There are no indirects.)
11. **Likelihood to lead to another proposal at Federal level. (Include PA #, RFA #, priority lists)

The study should have potential impact beyond Sparrow to the larger Health Care System.

*Please include the following information in your Letter of Intent: Project title, Name of Primary Investigator (PI) with credentials, PI email, PI office phone number, and an alternate phone number.*

*Please electronically submit Letters of Intent to: Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.org*

**Receipt of all documents will be confirmed via e-mail.** If no response has been received within two business days after the application deadline, send an e-mail to: Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.org or call 517-364-5730.

- **Documents that are incomplete or not prepared according to the instructions will not be reviewed and will be returned.**

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**Research Project Letters of Intent will be accepted on a rolling basis, but no later than March 25, 2016 by 5:00 p.m. for the initial review period.**

The Center for Innovation and Research
will review the Letters of Intent and make selections for requests for Full Proposals.
Invited applicants will submit Full Proposals approximately 4 weeks after the invitation.

**Research Project Letters of Intent must be submitted electronically in WORD format.**

For more information or questions, please contact
The Center for Innovation and Research by email at: Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.Org or by calling 517-364-5730.

- Letters of Intent should support the Mission and Vision of the Center and be consistent with the priority criteria.
- Interdisciplinary partnerships with active team members from both Sparrow and MSU is a requirement. (Active means the team member is a key contributor.)
**BUDGET:**
The budget typically does not exceed $50,000.00. There are no indirects. Other sources of support must be indicated to assure that funding to support the project’s activities, which are in excess of the grant funding, will be met and will not hinder the completion of the project.

The budget must be consistent with the role of the team member and not their current salary. Ex: If their role is as an interviewer, payment will be at the interviewer level, not that of a unit manager.

**The Center for Innovation and Research will not support:**
- Payment of tuition
- Publication costs
- Journal subscriptions or books
- Travel costs to professional meetings
- Institutional indirect costs
- Travel for conference attendance or presentation
- Preparation of posters
- Educational training
- Equipment purchase, except in situations where that will support better patient outcomes and is central to the proposal. Equipment must be justified and directly related to care.
- Marketing or advertising
- Licenses

- **Total Budget Requested.** The budget requested typically should not exceed $50,000.00. The budget should be planned for one year.
- **No funds will be released until Institutional Review Board [IRB], Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee [IACUC], or other approvals have been confirmed.** If these are intellectual property areas of concern, these will need to be resolved before the proposal is submitted if possible. Funding will not occur until resolved.

**Budget Justification/ Line Item Budget:**
The justification is a description that includes a justification for all itemized expenses including personnel. Each section of the justification should: (1) list the specific items or personnel noted below, (2) describe why the items or personnel are essential to the conduct of the study, and (3) include any cost calculations.

One line item budget may be submitted for the entire project or separate budgets are permitted from each performance site. Consortium or contractual arrangements and costs should be itemized. Items labeled as miscellaneous will not be funded. The line item budgets may include the following:

**Personnel:** These funds are not to support salaries to carry over staff while other funding is being sought.
- A description of the activities and role of each person involved in the research project including the principal investigator, co-investigators, consultants, research assistants, secretaries, data collection and data management staff, statistician, etc. Include the percentage of time devoted by each person. If a percentage of any person’s time is to be supported by the institution/another grant or as “in-kind”, indicate and explain in the justification of the budget request for the position.
- All research project personnel, consultants. Include the name, position, % time devoted to project, fringe benefit percent and amount, total fringe requested, and total salary requested.
- Vendors and services, such as survey centers and transcription services, must be HIPAA certified.
- Funds for Sparrow personnel will be provided to Sparrow. Sparrow employees will not be paid over and above their salaries, unless this is detailed in the budget and their supervisors agree to this in the letter of support.
- Subcontracts:
  - Subcontracts with Sparrow may be the mechanism used to pay Sparrow personnel when they are involved.
  - Under those circumstances, a Statement of Work (SOW) will be prepared for those personnel covered in the subcontract.
In addition, a Protocol Statement should be attached, which can come from the IRB document.

Subcontracts will not be made to companies or vendors that are not registered with Michigan State University and Sparrow Hospital.

**Supplies:**
- Details are needed. Supplies are defined as items with a unit cost of $500 or less. Examples include: photocopying, telephone, postage, computer time, paper, envelopes, transcription machines, flash drives, audio recorders, etc.

**Equipment:** Details and Specs are needed.
- Equipment requests should not represent a major portion of the budget or the only budget item. The narrative for equipment requests should: (1) identify the availability of matching funds, if any, or other funds that will contribute to the purchase of the item, (2) explain why the item is absolutely essential to the study, (3) Ownership of the item at the completion of the study will be individually assessed, but will belong to Sparrow or MSU.
- Equipment is defined as items with a unit cost greater than $500.

**Travel:**
- Only travel for data collection and study costs will be considered. Specify the purpose, personnel involved, distance, number of trips, mode of travel, and cost of travel.
- Conference travel and expenses will not be supported since this is only a one-year project and findings before the end of the project are unlikely.

**Software:**
- Request purchase of software only if the institution does not provide it. Include the name, version number, and unit cost.
- Development of software apps is not the intended use of these funds.

**Other Expenses:**
- Do not list the expenses as miscellaneous. These must be listed specifically, i.e., lab fees or supplies, lab assays, standardized testing, or reimbursement of study participants.

**Other Support:**
- Identify the total amount of other sources of funding for the study. Specify source, amount and funding period.
- Identify any additional funding that has already been awarded for the proposed study, including any funding obtained by a co-investigator. Explain how the work supported by other sources is different from the present request. Overlaps in funding are generally not funded.

**Pending Funding:**
- If there is other pending funding for the proposed project, identify the amount, agency, and date the funding is expected to be initiated, if awarded. If no additional funding is available or pending for the project, write “Not Applicable” in this section of the narrative. The USPHS Form 398 Page entitled, “Other Support” may be submitted.

**Total Funds Requested – there are no indirect funds.**

References:

Recommended Resources: