

Community Engagement Bridge Funding Award

2026 Request for Applications

At UW Medicine, we believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right and everyone should have the same access and opportunities for the best possible outcomes. This belief is very clearly tied to our mission to improve the health of the public. We are committed to transforming the way care is provided to eliminate these inequities. In support of this mission and WA State [RCW 69.78](#), which aims to improve participation in clinical trials from underrepresented communities The [Office of Healthcare Equity](#) (OHCE) is launching the Community Collaboration and Language Access Bridge Funding Award.

The Community Engagement Bridge Funding Award will prioritize UW clinical trial researchers who are seeking to integrate activities focused on community engagement, local context, cultural access, and/or language access as required by the [Diversity Plan for Clinical Trials Supplement - UW Research](#) (see [Table 2: Spectrum of Community Engagement in Clinical Trials Research, Examples](#)).

Award Details

- **Award Amount:** Up to \$10,000 total
- **# of awards:** 14 at up to \$10,000 per award
- **Application Deadline:** August 14, 2026

Extended to September 30, 2026

**Award notification and earliest funding availability may shift based on submission and approval date. The funding spending deadline remains the same: April 30, 2027*

- **Latest Award Notification By:** September 28, 2026*
- **Earliest Funding:** Beginning of October 2026*
- **Funding Spending Deadline:** April 30, 2027
- **Additional Requirements:**
 - Launch and post presentation to Community Based Research Collaboratory (CBRC); additional consultations available as desired.
 - Submission of two spending updates via the [Bridge Funding Awardee Reporting and Change Request Form](#)
 - Q1: Oct-Dec
 - Q2: Jan-Mar
 - 12-month follow-up requirement and post-evaluation
- **Submission:** Complete and submit the [Community Engagement Bridge Funding Application](#) by August 14, 2026

Application Requirements

This application is open to Principal Investigator (PI) eligible faculty/staff/research scientists from all University of Washington campuses, including junior faculty/staff/research scientists, who if awarded, will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements.

Individuals may not apply or serve as principal investigators on more than one application within the Community Engagement Bridge Funding award within a single application cycle.

Additionally, ALL applicants must:

1. Be requesting funding for a research project, priority will be given to clinical trials

2. Be willing and able to present to the [Community Based Research Collaboratory \(CBRC\)](#)
3. Funding is:
 - a. Sponsored study where the sponsor will not or cannot provide funds to cover translation costs;
 - b. Foundation grant under \$50,000 total direct cost;
 - c. Unfunded research; or
 - d. Grant-funded and the study team has confirmed an inability to cover community engagement costs

The CBRC consists of Community partners from 15 organizations and representatives from UW Medicine Office of Healthcare Equity. Together they are seeking to unite researchers and marginalized communities in transformative partnership, ensuring research is driven by community needs. They aim to establish a foundation of trust and equity to ultimately eliminate health disparities across Washington State. Supporting researchers by:

1. Establishing bi-directional communication between community and researchers
2. Providing education about community engagement practices
3. Advancing community leadership of research
4. Creating recruitment channels for participants into clinical trials

Budget & Allowable Expenses

The maximum award available per project is \$10,000. Proposed expenses must be tied directly to the implementation of project activities. The University of Washington Principal Investigator will receive the funds, and **no indirect costs will apply**. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that any community or non-academic partners receive reimbursement (as applicable).

Any unspent funds at the end of the award period will be returned to OHCE.

Allowed expenses include activities focused on community engagement, local context, cultural access, and/or language access as required by the support completion of [Diversity Plan for Clinical Trials Supplement - UW Research](#) (see [Table 2: Spectrum of Community Engagement in Clinical Trials Research, Examples](#)).

All allowable expenses must adhere to applicable University of Washington policies. Please contact your department's finance lead with questions regarding such expenses. Make sure to use the [budget template](#) when submitting your application.

Application Instructions

Request for Applications will be submitted to OHCE via the [Community Engagement Bridge Funding Application](#). A review by the Office Sponsored Programs is not required for this application as these are internal UW funds from OHCE. **Submissions that do not follow the application instructions will be disqualified.**

Selection Criteria & Review

Applications are due by **August 14, 2026**. An interdisciplinary review committee of UW OHCE faculty and staff, and CBRC members will review and score applications.

Applications that receive the highest scores will be granted funding. If two applications receive the same score, applications with a clinical trial focus or primary recruitment through UW and in WA state will receive priority.

Application will be scored using the following criteria and points:

- To what extent does this project nurture community engagement and support the inclusion of traditionally underserved populations in clinical trials? (5 points)
- How do the proposed objectives (specific activities) advance the project goal and support the Policy on Community Engagement, Local Context, and Cultural Humility (see [Table 1: Spectrum of Community Engagement in Clinical Trials Research](#))? (5 points)
- Is the proposed outcome of the project feasible and is there a clear plan for next steps for the project? (5 points)
- Does the collaboration plan bring diverse partners together around a shared idea or research agenda, which fosters interdisciplinary, community-based, and/or cross-sectoral collaboration? (3 points)
- Does the project support Washington State communities? (1 point)
- Is the budget and budget narrative reasonable for the proposed activities and timeframe? (2 points)

We anticipate awarding, at a minimum, 14 applicants up to \$10,000 each.

Award Requirements

Recipients will be required to attend (1) pre- research consultation with the CBRC, submit quarterly spending check-ins, present in person at a CBRC meeting in spring 2027, and submit a report detailing project accomplishments and final budget reconciliation due 30 calendar days following the end of the funding period. A survey will be sent to the PI one year after the final report is submitted to understand the impact of the funding.

Terms and Conditions

- It is the UW Principal Investigator (PI)'s responsibility to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, policies [Human Subjects](#), [Animal Welfare](#), [Export Controls](#), [Environmental Health and Safety](#), Lobbying, FERPA and any other UW requirements. Intellectual property will follow the University of Washington policies. The UW PI is responsible for notifying or seeking approval from the appropriate compliance offices on the UW campus prior to initiating any work and for following all relevant protocols. The Office of Healthcare Equity expects that the team will not begin work on the project until all appropriate compliance procedures are completed.
- It is the PI's responsibility to work closely with their Finance/Administrator to manage their budget and to be compliant with all finance and administrative procedures.
- If there is a proposed change or absence (30 days or greater) in PI, grantees will immediately provide justification and a plan to transition management of the grant to the new PI and (if applicable) new UW department by submitting the information via the [Bridge Funding Awardee Reporting and Change Request Form](#)

- Budget needs may change as a project progresses. If budget revisions are greater than 20% between categories, this will require review and written approval by OHCE Bridge Funding. To request a budget revision, please submit your request via the [Bridge Funding Awardee Reporting and Change Request Form](#) and include an updated budget.
- All project expenses must be submitted in Workday on or before April 30, 2027. Any unspent funds will be returned to OHCE.
- Please ensure that you allow sufficient time to complete payment to community partners and/or research participants, where applicable.
- Allowable equipment and supplies should be purchased at least 90 days before the end of the funding period.
- The PI and the PI's department must follow University of Washington procurement practices.
- Extensions are unable to be granted under any circumstances.
- PIs are required to attend a review meeting with the CBRC.
- PIs are required to submit a final report, attend a research showcase with the CBRC, and submit a budget reconciliation by May 30. Parts of the final report may be used in OHCE external communication, such as project outcomes and testimonials about the impact of the funding or the success of the project
- A survey will be sent to the PI one year after the final report is submitted to understand the impact of the funding.
- Publications, presentations, or other communications referencing the project funded by the Innovation Grants Program should include a statement that acknowledges OHCE Bridge Funding. For Primary Support (greater than 50% support from OHCE), please state that, "Funding for this project was provided by the Office of Health Care Equity at UW Medicine, through **the Community Engagement Bridge Funding Award**, which supports WA State [RCW 69.78](#) and the aim to improve participation in clinical trials from underrepresented communities." For Partial Support (less than 50% support from OHCE), please state that, "This project was supported in part by the Office of Health Care Equity at UW Medicine, through the **Community Engagement Bridge Funding Award**, which supports WA State [RCW 69.78](#) and the aim to improve participation in clinical trials from underrepresented communities."
- OHCE may be in contact with opportunities for sharing the project with external partners, during or after the award period.

Questions

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions through our [Contact Us!](#) form.

Warmly, the Office of Healthcare Equity Community Engagement Team: Juliana Garcia and Priscilla Estrada

