



The Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS) Emerging Research Pilot (ERP) Program (REVISED v.2)

Goal: To investigate scientific questions arising during the course of PHACS studies that align with the PHACS scientific agenda but require additional funding to complete the study. The intent of these Emerging Research Pilot (ERP) Program funds is to provide discretionary funding to support PHACS concepts which would be enhanced by use of existing PHACS repository specimens in addressing their scientific questions.

The following are high priority areas for funding:

- Evaluating short and long-term effects of antiretroviral and HIV exposures
- Understanding biological mechanisms of antiretroviral therapy and its adverse outcomes
- The impact of social and structural determinants of disparities and/or inequities on the health of PHACS participants and their families
- Studies that result in actionable findings with the potential for an immediate impact on the community of people living with or affected by HIV

Eligibility: ERP funds are intended primarily for PHACS-affiliated investigators seeking PHACS discretionary funds in order to advance the aims of PHACS network study protocols. It is expected that discretionary funds would be sought to conduct assays of existing PHACS specimens (without new protocol data or specimen collection). Non-PHACS investigators may also apply, but at least one PHACS-affiliated investigator must be included on the proposal team. Non-PHACS investigators should identify a PHACS investigator and/or Working Group to participate in the development of the proposal. Applications may not include any foreign components (e.g. international investigators or institutions).

Funding and Budget: Individual awards will be up to \$100,000 total (direct costs) per year for approximately 1 year. The budget should also include a nominal effort (1-2%) for salary support for the lead investigator and may also include effort for research assistants or technicians.

Period of Performance: Emerging Research Pilots are intended to be short-term projects. Therefore, the ERP Program will generally issue 12-month awards, though alternative amounts of time may be provided based on project scope and date of receipt. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until July 31, 2024.

Application process: The lead investigator will submit a capsule to the relevant working group as outlined in the [PHACS Research Development Policy](#). An estimated budget should be included, but this may change as the concept undergoes further development. If preliminary summary data is required to support your proposal, please request data at least one month in advance of planned date of submission. If the capsule is approved by the Working Group, then both the budget and approved capsule should be sent to the Leadership Group (LG) (at PHACS@hsph.harvard.edu) for preliminary approval of the proposed budget. If approved for funding by the LG, it will proceed through the standard concept sheet development process and Scientific Leadership Committee (SLC) approval, as outlined in the PHACS Research Development Policy. The budget will then return to the LG for final approval of funds. Please consult the [PHACS website](#) for required documents to include with applications.

Reporting Requirements:

- Final research and expenditures report required within three months after the end of the funding period.
- Awardees will be expected to present findings from their concept during a PHACS network meeting.
- Investigators must acknowledge PHACS support and grant number P01 HD103133 on any publications resulting from Emerging Research Pilot Program support.

Please contact PHACS@hsph.harvard.edu with any questions or for further information.