



Seed Grant Funding Opportunity for a pilot study focused on public health in India

Deadline: Sunday, June 29, 2025

Overview

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health India Research Center ('IRC' or 'the Center'), an office of Harvard Global Research Support Centre India ('HGI'), is pleased to announce that it is now accepting proposals from Harvard Chan Faculty for seed grant research funding for a pilot study focused on public health in India.

The funding will support pioneering research at early stages of development that focuses on non-communicable diseases (such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes), mental health, climate change and health, and infectious diseases in India.

The award will be granted for research to be conducted in India that benefits the public at large, will be awarded up to INR 17,00,000 (~\$20,000) and will be limited to one recipient. Funding can be used to cover research-related expenses in India, such as: supporting a research assistant, access to existing data, data collection activities, and research-related travel (with prior approval of the IRC).

Eligibility

This is a competitive grant program open for research for the benefit of public health and is to be conducted in India. It is open to all Harvard Chan full-time Faculty. Postdocs and research scientists may serve as co-investigators. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact Dr. Swati Bakshi at swatibakshi@hsph.harvard.edu.

Projects will be prioritized for funding when they: 1) integrate the theories, questions, and methods of two or more disciplines and 2) involve high payoff in terms of opening new areas of inquiry or providing crucial preliminary data for preparing larger grant proposals.

This year, the Center is encouraging applications that focus on:

- (1) Non-Communicable Diseases (such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes)
- (2) Mental Health
- (3) Climate Change and Health
- (4) Infectious Diseases

Although these areas are of particular interest to the Center, applications that focus on other areas of public health in India may also be considered.

Selection Process and Criteria

The team at the India Research Center will screen all submitted proposals to determine whether they meet the Center's goals. Proposals that pass this initial screening will undergo formal review by a grant review committee.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals:

- The overall quality of the proposed research;
- The potential of the proposed research to be expanded into an externally funded grant application;
- Proposed research that crosses disciplines;
- Partnership/Collaborators in India.

To apply:

Please submit a proposal of no more than 5 pages that covers the following:

1. Title of the Project
2. Name of Investigator(s)
 - a. Degrees
 - b. Position Title
 - c. Mailing Address
 - d. HSPH Department Affiliation
 - e. Telephone/Email
3. Statement on Human Subjects/IRB

*All research involving human subjects must have approval from the applicable institutional IRB. All investigators must be trained and certified in the responsible conduct of research involving human subjects. If your research involves secondary data, you more than likely will need to apply for an exemption. **If you are ultimately awarded funding, we will need either the IRB protocol number or exemption number before an***

account can be set-up. IRB must be obtained within six months of the award.

4. Detailed Project Proposal, addressing the following:
 - a. Specific Aims
 - b. Significance (including to India's public health)
 - c. Previous work in this area
 - d. Methods (including partners/collaborators in India)
 - e. Timeline (Note that the project must be completed by **August 2026**)
 - f. Budget
 - g. What is the end-product? Please indicate the type of deliverable product to come out of the project. These could include: (1) presentation of findings at national/international meetings and conferences; (2) organizing research workshops and poster days related to disseminating work in progress; (3) submission and publication of manuscripts emanating from the research in peer reviewed journals; and (4) preparation of larger grant proposals for external funding.

Please include the following appendices (outside of the 5-page limit):

5. Key Personnel/Collaborators: List and provide NIH biosketch
6. Literature Cited (Complete citations, including titles and all authors)
7. Proposed Line-Item Budget. The Center has set aside funding for one grant of INR 17,00,000 (~\$20,000). Awards may be adjusted to fund applications, if warranted. Please provide an accompanying budget justification.

Each funded investigator will need to prepare a final report of the project for submission to the Center.

Deadline: Electronic copy (**one single PDF**) due by 5:00 PM EST on **Sunday, June 29, 2025**.

Anticipated notification of award: by August 2025.

Submit to: **Dr. Swati Bakshi**
Deputy Director, India Research Center
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
swatibakshi@hsph.harvard.edu