

**FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PILOT GRANTS FOCUSED ON CATCHMENT AREA HEALTH**

OPEN TO ALL CANCER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

January 2025

RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 2, 2025**DUE DATE:** FEBRUARY 14, 2025**EARLIEST START DATE:** APRIL 1, 2025

Funds are available from the Fred Hutch/University of Washington/Seattle Children's Cancer Consortium ("The Consortium") Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) and non-sponsored funds to support cancer-related pilot projects focused on the Consortium's catchment area, which includes the entire state of Washington.

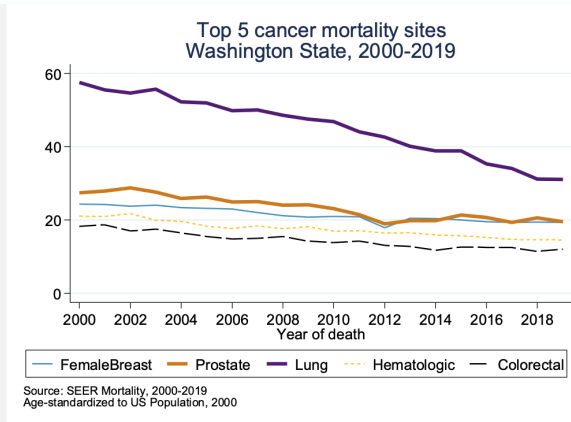
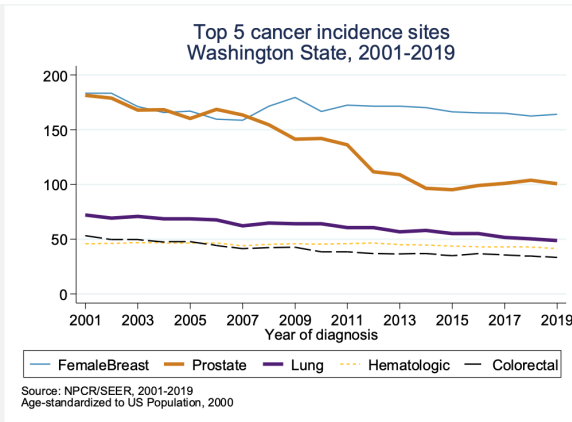
Background:

The Consortium's catchment area:

- Constitutes all 39 counties in Washington.
- Includes a population of 7,656,200 (2020 data).
- Is comprised of 33% racial/ethnic minority populations.
- From 2017-2021, the age-adjusted incidence rate for all cancer cases combined in WA was 439.7 per 100,000 (95% CI 437.7-441.7).

Below is a snapshot of the cancer burden in Washington from 2015-2019, as presented in [A Report to the Community: 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

- American Indian/Alaska Native (Indigenous) populations had the highest cancer incidence rate (513.9 per 100,000) of any racially or ethnically defined group.
 - Indigenous people in WA experience significantly higher incidence rates of female breast, lung, colorectal, hematologic, liver, bladder, thyroid, and oral cancers compared to Indigenous people in the US.
- Non-Hispanic Black populations had the highest cancer mortality rate (158.2 per 100,000) of any racially or ethnically defined group.
 - Non-Hispanic Blacks have significantly higher mortality rates for prostate cancer compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- Liver cancer is the 3rd and 5th most common cause of cancer death for the Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations in WA, respectively.



Among children ages 0 through 14 years of age in Washington:

- the top 5 most common cancers are: hematologic malignancies, brain, soft tissue, kidney, and other endocrine cancers.
- the top 3 causes of cancer death are: hematologic malignancies, brain & other nervous system, and other endocrine cancers.

Among adolescents and young adults ages 15 through 39 years of age in Washington:

- the top 5 most common cancers are: female breast, testis, thyroid, hematologic malignancies and invasive melanoma.
- the top 5 causes of cancer death are: female breast, hematologic malignancies, brain & other nervous system, colorectal, and cervix.

For more information, please see [A Report to the Community: 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment](#). If you need any other cancer data for your application, please contact the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement at enddisparities@fredhutch.org.

Proposal Guidance:

The research plan should address research on cancers relevant to the catchment area and/or the populations that face the highest burden or cancer disparities in the state. This may include topics such as:

- Designing prevention and/or risk-reducing strategies for:
 - one or more of the 5 most common cancer types and causes of cancer death (female breast, colorectal, lung, hematologic, and prostate)
 - liver cancer, a leading cause of cancer death for Asian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanic/Latino/a/x populations in the catchment area
- Mitigating cancer-related behaviors that put communities at risk of cancer
- Empowering communities to promote cancer prevention activities (tobacco cessation, physical activity, HPV vaccination)
- Supporting communities to meet screening recommendations for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer
- Reducing cancer burden in rural communities within the catchment area

- Reducing cancer inequities among Indigenous populations in the catchment area
- Increasing enrollment of underrepresented populations into Consortium clinical trials

This competition will fund one project, at a maximum of \$100,000 in direct costs (plus F&A/indirect costs), for one year. Consortium members are eligible for this pilot funding (see section “A. Eligibility” for more details).

GUIDELINES

1. **Goal:** The aim of these pilot awards is to support new projects or research directions that advance cancer-related research relevant to our catchment area of Washington state. Projects may demonstrate feasibility and seek preliminary data for additional funding applications. Proposals should not be an extension of on-going, well-established, or recently funded studies. Grants from more established investigators (e.g., Professors) will be competitive if they are for a pilot study that is needed to establish a new direction or research project. Collaborations between established investigators and junior colleagues will also be viewed favorably.

2. **Available funds:** We anticipate funding one meritorious project with an individual one-year budget at a maximum of \$100,000 direct costs.

3. **Facilities and administrative (F&A)/indirect costs:**

CCSG-funded awards: F&A (indirect) costs will be included in addition to the direct cost amount at the institutional F&A cost rate. If multiple Consortium institutions are involved, a direct cost budget for each institution should be included in PHS398 format. Additional F&A (if applicable) associated with any subaward site(s) will be included in the award and will not come out of the direct costs award total. A brief budget justification is required.

Center-funded awards: If a non-sponsored award is conferred to a Fred Hutch investigator, only direct costs will be awarded; F&A will be waived for Fred Hutch investigators of all faculty levels as the award will be made from Center funds. If a non-sponsored award is conferred to an investigator at a Consortium partner institution, F&A will be included at the appropriate institutional rate.

If a subaward will go to a non-Consortium institution, the subaward institution’s F&A must be included in the direct cost total.

4. **Award period:** Awarded funds should be spent in the one-year award period. Earliest anticipated start date is April 1, 2025. A single no-cost extension will be considered and will need to be reviewed and approved by the Consortium Executive Committee.

Note: Projects may be submitted to this Catchment Area pilot award competition **OR** to the Cancer Consortium pilot award competition (also opening on January 2, 2025), **but not to both** competitions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Eligibility

- Applicants must be Consortium members by the application deadline to be eligible. Only eligible applicants may serve as the principal investigator on the pilot application.
- Non-Consortium members and Consortium Affiliate members* can be involved in the pilot project as collaborators, but a Consortium member must be the principal investigator on the application. An up-to-date listing of Consortium members can be found on the Consortium website:
<https://www.cancerconsortium.org/membership.html>.
- Faculty can serve as principal investigator on only one CCSG pilot project application per year; however, they can serve as co-investigator or collaborators on more than one application per year. This includes this competition and the general CCSG Pilot Grant competition.
- Members who have received a CCSG-funded award of any kind, or a Safeway pilot award, within three years of the anticipated award start date (April 1, 2025) **are not eligible to apply**.
- If you have received CCSG or Safeway pilot funding in the past five years, include a summary (1 page maximum) describing the main aim of the funded project, and whether any publications, new collaborations, or external grants resulted from the funding.

***Consortium Affiliate members** are not considered full Consortium members and are not eligible to apply for Consortium pilot awards as principal investigators.

B. Application Format

Applicants must submit the 2025 Catchment Area Pilot Application using InfoReady. **Pilot proposal research plans are limited to 2 pages and should clearly address the following:**

- Identify what catchment area research priority/priorities the project will address.
- Indicate how this work will address a programmatic deficiency related to health inequities with respect to current Cancer Consortium-defined Research Programs listed here: <https://www.cancerconsortium.org/about/research-programs.html>.
- Describe how this work is a new direction for your laboratory/research group and is highly innovative, yet technically feasible.

- Show how this work reveals the homegrown intellectual and creative strengths of the investigators. New collaborations between established investigators and junior colleagues or between Consortium Research Programs will be viewed favorably.
- Describe how this work will benefit cancer prevention, diagnosis, screening, treatment, or survivorship.
- Describe what key data or results will be gathered to support further NIH or other external funding.

Note: *no preliminary data are required to apply for these awards.*

- Indicate how this project is a timely opportunity that might otherwise be lost if delayed by the NIH review cycle.
- Include a long-range plan for sustained interactions with catchment area communities around cancer-related topics.

Page limits and attachments:

1. In the InfoReady platform, please provide the requested project information and an abstract that states the primary hypothesis. The abstract and the proposal should both be written to be understandable by reviewers with diverse expertise, as the review panel will consist of faculty from across the Consortium.
2. The scientific research plan is limited to 2 pages maximum in 11-point font with a minimum 0.5 inch margins.
3. Figures/tables can each be one additional page. No page limit for references.
4. Proposed budget and budget justification* can each be one additional page (total 2 pages maximum).
 - * Please submit a budget and budget justification for each institution and/or subaward.
5. If you have received Consortium pilot funding in the past 5 years and have completed the project, include a summary (additional page with a 1-page maximum) describing the main aim of the funded project, and whether any publications, new collaborations, or external grants resulted from the funding.
6. Include an NIH Biosketch listing your current sources of funding and a one-line description of the primary goal of each funded grant. A biosketch should be included for each key personnel involved with the project. FAQs on the current NIH Biosketch format, samples, and templates: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.
7. Projects with a PI and work based at UW or Seattle Children's must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) from their Sponsored Projects/Sponsored Research Office along with their

application.

C. Criteria for Funding

Applications should meet the criteria stated above for pilot awards (See section “B. Application Format”).

Successful applications will:

- Advance cancer-related research relevant to our catchment area.
- Yield key preliminary data and/or demonstrate feasibility in a one-year award time frame.
- While not required, pilot applications that engage Indigenous populations to identify and/or address cancer inequities of high priority for Indigenous populations are highly encouraged.
 - **Note:** Any submission that proposes to work with one or more Indigenous communities should include a documented tribal approval or agreement to participate in the proposed project. Submissions are not limited to this population focus and may include other communities of interest.

D. Application Due Date

Applications are due **Friday, February 14, 2025, by 5:00 pm PST**. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted for evaluation by the Review Committee.

E. Application Submission

The application should be uploaded to InfoReady: 2025 CCSG Catchment Area Pilot Funding Opportunity: <https://fredhutch.infoready4.com/#competitionsDetail/1960565>

- Fred Hutch users should use the single-sign-on (SSO) to start their application.
- Seattle Children’s and University of Washington applicants will first need to create an account (Please use the applicants’ primary institutional affiliation email address).
- If you would like an administrator to submit on your behalf, the primary applicant will need to sign-in and designate this role.
- Use the templates provided in the “Details” menu under Supporting Documents.
- The file name of each element of your application should be:
Lastname_Application_date.pdf
- Contact Consortium Administration at cancerconsortium@fredhutch.org with any technical concerns or questions about using the InfoReady platform, or for assistance with proxy submission if needed.

F. Award Timeline

Applications will be reviewed in February and March and recommendations presented to the CCSG Executive Committee. Funding is expected to begin by April 1, 2025. Access to award funds is subject to Fred Hutch Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) review and

receipt of all compliance documents such as IRB approval where needed, COI disclosures, PI Assurances, etc.

G. University of Washington/Seattle Children's – Special Instructions

Projects involving a principal investigator based at the University of Washington or Seattle Children's must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) from their Sponsored Projects/Sponsored Research office along with their pilot application. Since Fred Hutch is now a [Federal Demonstration Partnership \(FDP\) member](#), we are required to use new LOI templates.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PILOT AWARDS

How can I check to see if I am a Consortium member and to which program I belong?

You can find this information on the Consortium website at:

<https://www.cancerconsortium.org/membership/member-search.html>.

***Note:** Consortium Affiliate members are not eligible to apply for CCSG Pilot Funds as the principal investigator.

How long do I have to spend the funds if I receive an award?

Awards are intended to support projects of one year in duration.

Are there unallowable costs on these projects?

Pilot funds may not be used to pay for tuition, upgrades to established shared resources, or equipment.

Does the NIH Salary Cap apply to these awards?

Yes. Investigators must adhere to the current Executive Level II salary cap.

Does the Principal Investigator need to charge salary and effort to these projects?

The PI must have some measurable effort on the project for direction and supervision. While not required, Consortium leadership recommends the PI include some salary on the project.

How many awards will be made?

It is anticipated that at least one award will be made for a minimum of \$100,000 in direct costs. If an award is made to a Fred Hutch investigator via non-sponsored funds, only direct costs will be awarded.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FRED HUTCH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Does an application submitted by a Fred Hutch-based PI need to be uploaded in Hutch Grants?

No. Projects with a Fred Hutch-based PI will only need to be uploaded into Hutch Grants if funded.

Can my project have University of Washington (UW) or Seattle Children's collaborators who receive funds from the pilot award?

Yes. You will need to issue a subaward from your project to UW or Seattle Children's for funds that will be spent there. Please include a PHS398 budget page for each institution that will receive funds. Direct cost budgets should total \$100,000 combined. Additional F&A (if applicable) will be included in your award and will not come out of your direct costs. An LOI from the subaward institution must accompany the pilot application.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – UW & SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Does an application with a UW-based PI need to submit an e-GCI?

Yes. Institutional sign-off should be received **prior to submission of a pilot award proposal for review**, and a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the corresponding institution must accompany the pilot application. Contact your institution's Office of Sponsored Project/Office of Sponsored Research for guidance. Per the UW Office of Sponsored Programs, submit an eGCI anticipating that if awarded, you will receive both direct and indirect costs for your project.

If there are Fred Hutch (FH) personnel who will be paid from this award, or other FH direct costs, how will this be managed?

If the project is funded, a subaward will be issued for costs to be incurred at the investigator's primary institution. A FH co-Investigator (or Administrative PI) needs to be named to maintain financial oversight of the work taking place at FH. This person should have a measurable amount of effort on the project; salary support is not required. Funds to be spent at FH will be deducted from the award amount prior to issuing the subaward, and the balance will be issued to UW or Children's. Please include a budget page for each institution that will receive funds.

Further inquiries about award administration may be directed to Kathy Briant (kbriant@fredhutch.org) or Elizabeth Carosso (ecarosso@fredhutch.org).