

## **Dr. L. D. Britt Grant for Diversity and Health Equity**

### **A. PURPOSE**

The **Dr. L. D. Britt Health Equity and Diversity Grant (LDB HEDG)** has been developed to provide seed grants for faculty and scholars at EVMS to conduct collaborative research on diversity and health equity. Projects will be supported that explore the challenges of, and/or develop interventions that:

- address disparities in patient care through education/training (at the UME, GME or CME levels)
- address disparities in patient access, outreach, and continuity of care
- address health disparities by advancing therapeutic discovery
- advance community engagement and education
- address the lack of diversity in the health professions through innovative engagement and mentoring approaches for trainees underrepresented in medicine at various levels in the pathway.

The LDB HEDG can provide resources to plan, initiate, and develop research projects, as well as produce preliminary data, in order to prepare a strong submission for external funding. As EVMS is a teaching institute, working with students, residents, and other trainees is highly encouraged, and funding can also be used in part for stipend support for such learners.

Ideally, projects will include collaboration across disciplines and departments at EVMS on health equity research projects and possibly between EVMS and Hampton University and/or Norfolk State University faculty and students; however, preliminary studies that would lead to collaborative extramural program or training grants will be considered.

### **B. ELIGIBILITY**

Awarding of the LDB HEDG is restricted to those who qualify as a PI under the EVMS Sponsored Programs [PI Policy \(Sponsored Programs Principal Investigators 13.20\)](#). The maximum amount funded will be up to \$10,000 per application, though grant applications of lower budget are equally considered. LDB HEDG funds are generally used for 6-12 months and cannot exceed one year of support. Principal investigator salary and large equipment items are excluded from funding support. *Applications will be accepted for community health/outcomes and/or training/educational research projects.*

**Future Submission Plans:** The LDB HEDG is intended as a furthering of the EVMS long-term mission for advancing health equity and diversity. Thus, it is designed to assist in the creation of long-term projects with the strong potential for obtaining long-term external funding, particularly from large funding agencies. As such, it is highly encouraged that the investigator will prepare and submit an application for an external grant, using research and data resulting from the LDB HEDG.

**Final Report:** In order to analyze the effect of the LDB HEDG, the investigators who receive the grant will be expected to submit a mid-grant update and a final report at the grant's end which include plans for grant submissions. Investigators will also be expected to provide a basic follow-up report each year for 3 years following the grant's end. More information about the reports will be provided at time of award.

### **C. CONTENT OF LDB HEDG APPLICATION**

**All components should be assembled as a single PDF file with pages numbered. Format requirement: Arial font size 11, single-line spacing, minimum 0.5 inch margin all around.**

1. EVMS Institutional [Project Approval Form](#) with signatures (available on the Funding page of the Research Tab on MyPortal).
2. Chair's statement of support. (Page limit: 2 pages) Statement must also include information from the departmental chair addressing:
  - a. The current funds (from all sources) available to the investigator to support the project, if any.
  - b. If the department is able to match or contribute some funds to support the project. Provision of matching funds from the department is encouraged.
3. **Summary of the research being proposed and future plans.** This should include relevant background, aims, research questions, methods, anticipated timeline with goals, and plan for future funding application(s). (Page limit: 4 pages)
4. **Budget and justification.** Request can be made for any need which is justifiably required to ensure proper implementation of research or exploration of research topics. This may include stipends for students or residents working on the project and supplies or small equipment, if lack of such is justified to impede progress. Principal investigator salary and the purchase of large equipment items are excluded from funding support. Use of Core equipment is highly encouraged and funding can be used to purchase required supplies. (Page limit: 2 pages)
5. **A listing of all the research funding available to the PI,** including **all** external and EVMS-internal (plus EVMS incentive accounts). (Page limit: 2 pages)
6. An NIH formatted Biosketch of the Principal Investigator (Page limit: 5 pages)

<b>LDB HEDG Application Components</b>	<b>Page Limits</b>
1. EVMS Project Approval Form	N/A
2. Chair's statement of support	Page limit: 2 pages
3. Summary of the research being proposed	Page limit: 4 pages
4. Budget and Justification	Page limit: 2 pages
5. List of ALL funding available to PI	Page limit: 2 pages
6. Biosketch	Page limit: 5 pages

**Proposals deviating from the guidelines may be administratively rejected without further consideration.**

#### **D. SUBMISSION**

LDB HEDG applications are submitted to the Vice Dean for Research via the Office of Research as a single combined PDF, via email only, to [EVMSResearch@evms.edu](mailto:EVMSResearch@evms.edu) no later than **12:00 noon on January 11, 2021**. Once received in the Office of Research, the LDB HEDG application will be reviewed for completeness by the office staff. Applications will then be reviewed by an internal review panel that includes members of the Research Advisory Committee. The panel will forward a brief written review and recommendation as to whether or not funding is merited to the Vice Dean for Research.

#### **E. CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria

- a. Scholarly merit, research strategy, and overall quality of project design to address health equity and diversity
- b. Capacity of study to investigate diversity and health equity and feasibility to achieve goals within the anticipated timeline
- c. Appropriateness of budget use; Consideration of facility, infrastructure, and equipment available and used for the project.
- d. Impact of project on current or ongoing efforts at EVMS and potential for sustaining the project and possibly obtain outside funding and/or publication.
- e. Past productivity (i.e. publications, meeting presentations, invited talks, etc.) as presented in Biosketch.

Preference will be given to projects with greater:

- Uniqueness
- Innovation
- Potential for return
- Leverage of existing resources

**F. NOTIFICATION**

The recommendations from the review panel will be examined by the Vice Dean for Research who will make the final decision and notify the applicant. A written review of the application will be provided and funded PIs will be notified of the LDB HEDG reporting requirement. Applicants can expect final funding decisions by February 2021.