

**CHALLENGE GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM**

1. **Background**

The Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE) brings together faculty from across all three campuses of University of Michigan (U-M), leveraging expertise from multiple disciplines in pursuit of novel solutions to global health challenges that can positively impact[[1]](#footnote-1) communities in low-income settings. The CGHE is building communities of practice within defined Challenge Groups. Four multi-disciplinary Challenge Groups engage faculty across the U-M community and are convening to advance design approaches and specific projects that leverage our collective expertise to maximize impact. The current [Challenge Groups](https://globalhealthequity.umich.edu/communities-practice/challenge-groups) are:

* *Climate Vulnerability and Health*
* *Data Science*
* *Designing for Impact in Global Health*
* *Empowering Women and Communities*
1. **Funding Purposes**
* Provide faculty working in the Center’s Challenge Groups with funding for exploratory work or newly established projects that are poised to [advance the Center’s overall vision and goals](https://globalhealthequity.umich.edu/aboutcenter/).
* Foster collaborations and facilitate connections across the Center’s Challenge Groups, U-M community, and global partners.
* Build a case for large-scale or more expansive projects and inform future strategic funding approaches for the Center.
* Advance projects and activities that are co-designed between U-M faculty and their global partners.
1. **Grant Types**

Two grant mechanisms are currently available through this program:

* ***Exploratory:*** This mechanism supports activities and projects in the early stages of co-design/co-development with global partners. Funds may be used to catalyze ideas and collaborations, and could lead to more substantial project proposals. Examples of funded activities may include, but are not limited to, building new or strengthening existing partnerships, exploring local needs, identifying mutual interests among collaborators, defining scope of work, validating feasibility of activities, testing initial ideas, or gathering data.
	+ *$5,000–$35,000 for 6–12 months*
* ***Co-Design Grants:*** This mechanism supports co-designed projects that are already conceptualized with a global partner, present great potential for quick wins, and/or need a higher level of funding to either pilot or build on existing work. Funds can also be used to foster larger multi-disciplinary collaborations so as to position them for more substantial funding opportunities.
	+ *$35,000–$100,000 for 12–18 months*
1. **Requirements**
**1. Eligibility**: Proposals must meet the following criteria:
	1. Proposals should be related to the work of at least 1 [Challenge Group](https://globalhealthequity.umich.edu/communities-practice/challenge-groups)
	2. The lead U-M-affiliated applicant must be a faculty member who has joined a [current Challenge Group](https://globalhealthequity.umich.edu/communities-practice/challenge-groups).
	3. Reflect at least one of the [core themes](https://globalhealthequity.umich.edu/about) of the Center
	4. Be co-designed with a global partner.

**2. Funding Priorities**: Although not all of the criteria below may be covered with initial funding requests, the alignment of initiatives with the following “lens criteria” will also be evaluated. Preference will be given to initiatives that include:

* A ‘line of sight’ to impact health for those living in LMICs (i.e., how could this project lead to a positive change in how people are living healthier lives?)
* Potential for clever, transformative disruption
* A plan to engage stakeholders, build synergy, and maximize collective efforts and outputs across at least three U-M schools, colleges, or units.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Activities that play to U-M strengths (i.e., where are we uniquely positioned to have impact?)
* Focus on an area that is neglected or not receiving adequate attention
* A sense of urgency
* Demonstrated engagement of external partner(s) for collaboration that would be aided by the Center. Applications indicating some external or matching support will be advantaged.
* Potential for longer-term sustainability (or building towards further impact) beyond the funding period
* Engagement of junior faculty and/or learners
* A comprehensive budget that addresses the needs of all collaborators to maximize involvement
1. **Submission and Review Process**Applications will be received and reviewed twice a semester. Upcoming deadlines for receipt of applications are **November 1, 2021** and **January 14, 2022**. All applications should include the following:

	1. Endorsement by respective school/college Dean (*for Co-Design grants only*)
	2. Challenge Group Grants application form (please see page 4 of this document)
	3. [Budget request](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OUu8t5naeLjOfZwZ3b-Q_MkgFNsed-c_4e7gMmsE7cc/edit?usp=sharing) and [budget justification](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11vq_52QDvUVzXBO_yLgC4ZOEmzH6C9yJ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114877613525347353936&rtpof=true&sd=true)
	4. Statement of collaboration from a Global Partner (including specifying the role of the Global Partner in the co-design process and how the potential results would meaningfully contribute to improved health in the local community or country)

Please submit application materials to Kelly Espinoza (kaespino@med.umich.edu). For **Co-design grants only**, submissions will be followed by a pitch via Zoom to the CGHE Leadership team to present the proposal and allow for questions/clarifications.

Applications will be reviewed by the Center within six to eight weeks of submission.

1. **Results Monitoring and Reporting:**Funded projects will be required to undertake the following progress monitoring and reporting activities:
2. Report interim results every 3 months through meetings with the CGHE and the relevant Challenge Group. These sessions could include Global Partners to discuss progress in co-design and implementation, as well as challenges and mitigation strategies.
3. Present a final report detailing activities completed, results, lessons learned, and next steps. Co-design projects will be expected to present a mid-term report detailing progress of the afore-mentioned categories.



**CHALLENGE GROUP GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

1. **What is the title of your Challenge Group Project?**
2. **Which Challenge Group(s) does this align with? (Check all groups that apply)**

\_\_\_Climate, Vulnerability and Health

\_\_\_Data Science

\_\_\_Designing for Impact in Global Health

\_\_\_Empowering Women and Communities

1. **Indicate Small Grants type (Exploratory or Co-Design), amount requested and duration of implementation[[3]](#footnote-3)**:

Grant type:

 Amount Requested:

 Duration:

1. **Please provide the following information for the U-M and Global Partner joint project team:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Affiliation (School/Department, if applicable)** | **Project Role** | **Relevant Expertise** |
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1. **Problem Framing: What health equity problems does this proposal address?**
2. **How does the proposed project link to the priorities of the relevant CGHE Challenge Group(s)?**
3. **What are the overall objectives of this proposal?**
4. **What are the main activities of the proposed project?**
5. **What would the success of this proposal look like? Describe how you would measure the results and outcomes of this project.**
6. **Describe how the project could lead to a sustainable impact on global health in an LMIC. If applicable, include a description of how this project builds towards further work towards impact in this space.**
7. **Who is your Global Partner? Describe *the role* of your global partner in the *co-conceptualization/co-design* of this project.**
8. **Please include a budget and budget justification. Utilizing these templates will facilitate application review and ensure that key expenses are included.**

[Budget request](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OUu8t5naeLjOfZwZ3b-Q_MkgFNsed-c_4e7gMmsE7cc/edit?usp=sharing) and [budget justification](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11vq_52QDvUVzXBO_yLgC4ZOEmzH6C9yJ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114877613525347353936&rtpof=true&sd=true)

1. Evidence of impact (i.e., an evidence hierarchy) could be conceived as follows:

o *1st order evidence - people living longer or better*

o *2nd order evidence - more people with factors influenced associated with 1st order*

o *3rd order evidence - policies enacted (e.g., financing, etc.) that enable 2nd order*

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It is not required that funding be appropriated equally across all units/global partners involved in the initiative. Allocations of funds may depend on the size of the requests and the proposed first steps. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The grant clock will start from the time when the project kicks off. The project should start within 6 months of the notice of award. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)