



2026 – 2027 CANOE Partnership’s Pilot Grant & Career Development Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



Summary

Who can apply? Early career investigators or faculty who are eligible to submit grants as principal investigators through the Consortium or Alaska-based institutions and who are committed to Indigenous cancer health outcomes research.

Award: Up to \$60,000 (direct costs) plus F&A (indirect) costs at the institutional F&A cost rate.

Project Period: One-year period with funding expected to begin by July 27, 2026.

Due Date: July 17, 2026, at 12:00 PM PST

Funding Priorities: This funding opportunity will support investigator-led research and community-engaged strategies through the following areas:

- Design prevention and risk-reducing strategies for cancers most affecting American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations
- Address cancer-related behaviors that increase risk
- Empower AI/AN communities to promote cancer prevention activities
- Support AI/AN communities to meet screening recommendations for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer
- Reduce cancer burden in rural and under-resourced AI/AN communities within Washington State and Alaska
- Increase AI/AN participation in clinical trials and cancer-related research
- Integrate community-engaged research and Indigenous methodologies to inform, evaluate, and sustain cancer health outcome efforts

Where to apply? Submit proposals and required documents through the [InfoReady funding portal](#).

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Background

The CANOE (Cancer Awareness, Navigation, Outreach, and Empowered Indigenous Health Outcomes) Partnership's Pilot Grant and Career Development Program is designed to prepare the next generation of researchers in Indigenous cancer health outcomes. This NOFO invites applications from early career investigators within the Fred Hutch/University of Washington/Seattle Children's Cancer Consortium (Consortium), along with investigators from Alaska-based institutions conducting research with Alaska Native Populations. The program combines pilot research funding with robust career development activities, including quarterly training seminars and expert mentorship, to address factors influencing research participation and outcomes.

The CANOE Partnership developed this program to align with recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, aiming to build research capacity and foster career development for scientists with lived experiences in Indigenous communities. This initiative further supports community-engaged research (CER) to improve outcomes in Indigenous cancer health outcomes.

Proposal Guidance

Applicants should address one or more of the following elements in their proposal:

- Designing prevention and/or risk-reducing strategies for:
 - One or more of the 5 most common cancer types and causes of cancer death among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations in Washington State or Alaska.
- Mitigating cancer-related behaviors that put AI/AN communities at risk of cancer
- Empowering AI/AN communities to promote cancer prevention activities (tobacco cessation, physical activity, HPV vaccination)
- Supporting AI/AN communities to meet screening recommendations for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer
- Reducing the cancer burden among AI/AN communities within the catchment area of Washington State, and/or including Alaska-based populations
- Increasing enrollment of AI/AN populations into Consortium clinical trials

Proposals must integrate both the scientific objectives and the career development components that facilitate the progression of investigators to independent research roles.

Guidelines

I. Goal

The primary goal of this program is to cultivate a steady stream of scientists conducting cutting-edge research in Indigenous cancer health outcomes. By providing pilot funding and career development support, the program seeks to generate preliminary data that will inform future cancer research and support the transition toward independent NIH R01 funding.

II. Available Funds

Each annual pilot grant will provide a total of \$60,000 (direct costs) plus F&A (indirect) costs at the institutional F&A cost rate. In addition, awardees will receive a travel award of \$6,000 to support attendance at the CANOE Annual Meeting and related career development activities.

III. Facilities & Administrative (F&A) | Indirect Costs

CANOE Partnership 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 narrative budget justification is required.

IV. Award Period

Award funds should be spent in the one-year award period. Earliest anticipated start date is July 27, 2026. A single no-cost extension will be considered and will need to be reviewed by the CANOE Partnership Leadership.

Application Process

A. Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are early career investigators, i.e., faculty who are no higher than the Assistant Professor level at the time of application and who have not been PI/MPI on a R01 grant or equivalent, from the Consortium and Alaska-based institutions who are committed to Indigenous cancer health outcomes research.
- Applicants must be faculty eligible to submit grants as principal investigators at a Consortium institution to be eligible or based at institutions in Alaska that can support research with populations in Alaska. Only eligible applicants may serve as the principal investigator on the pilot application.

Consortium members, Consortium Affiliate or Provisional members, and investigators from Alaska-based institutions are eligible to apply if they are eligible to serve as principal investigators through their home institution. For reference, a current listing of Consortium members is available at: <https://www.cancerconsortium.org/membership.html>

- Membership in the Consortium is not required to apply. Collaborators and co-investigators may represent any partner or community organization.
- Faculty can serve as principal investigator on only one pilot project application per year; however, they can serve as co-investigator or collaborators on more than one application per year.
- Applicants who have received a CCSG-funded award of any kind, or a Safeway pilot award, within three years of the anticipated award start date (July 27, 2026) **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.

B. Application Format

Pilot proposal research plans **are limited to 2 pages** and should clearly address the following:

- Identify what catchment area / Alaska population-based research priority/priorities the project will address.
- 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 early career 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, if applicable.

- Include a long-range plan for sustained interactions with catchment area or Alaskan communities around cancer-related topics.
- A comprehensive career development and mentorship plan.
- Documentation outlining the proposed research's alignment with Indigenous health disparities and CER methodologies.
- A detailed plan for dissemination of findings to the partner community or communities.

Note: Any submission that proposes to work with one or more AI/AN communities should include a documented Tribal approval or agreement to participate in the proposed project.

Page limits & Attachments:

1. Please upload the requested project information and an abstract (stating the primary hypothesis) as PDF attachments within your InfoReady application. 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 and community representatives of the Cultural Connection Council.
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 narrative budget justification* can each be one additional page (total 2 pages maximum).

***Note:** Please submit a budget and narrative budget justification for each institution and/or subaward.
5. Proposed career development and mentorship plan can be one additional page maximum.
6. 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.
7. 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-process/write-application/forms-directory/biographical-sketch-common-form>.
8. Projects with a PI and work based at UW, Seattle Children's, or an Alaska-based institution 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.

Successful applications will describe:

- How the proposal advances cancer-related research relevant to AI/AN cancer health outcomes.
- Potential to improve cancer prevention, screening, treatment, survivorship, or research participation among AI/AN populations.

- The clarity and feasibility of the proposed Tribal and community partner collaboration.
- The appropriateness of the selected research framework (e.g., NIMHD) to justify levels and domains of influence.
- The strength of the proposed CER approaches and community engagement strategies.
- The robustness of the career development activities and mentorship plan, including the quality of the assigned mentor and support structure.
- The commitment of the applicant's institution to support the research initiative.
- The potential for pilot data to lead to future funding and sustained research impact.

D. Application Due Date

Applications must be submitted by **12 PM PST on July 17, 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

E. Application Submission

All applications must be submitted through the [InfoReady portal](#). Applicants should ensure that the submission package includes all required sections and attachments.

F. Award Timeline

Applications will be reviewed in July 2026 and recommendations presented to the CANOE Partnership Leadership and its advisory committee, the Cultural Connection Council. Funding is expected to begin by July 27, 2026.

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, & Alaska-Based Institutions Special Instructions

Projects involving a principal investigator based at the University of Washington, Seattle Children's or at an Alaska-based institution **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.

Grant Contacts

Further inquiries about award administration may be directed to the **CANOE Partnership** via email at CANOE@fredhutch.org.