



TCC Shark Tank Call for Concept Papers Announcement

Informational webinar (optional): Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 1:00 pm EST
Submission Deadline (extended): Tuesday, April 19, 2016 @ 5:00 pm EST
Submit entries to: <https://fs22.formsite.com/MorehouseTCC/sharktank/index.html>
Website: <http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>
Submit questions to: tcc@msm.edu

TCC Overview

The Morehouse School of Medicine Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center (TCC) for Health Disparities Research (U54MD008173) is an institution-wide health policy research center (U54) funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). The TCC mission is to “inform health policy and practice with evidence-based science.” We accomplish this mission by supporting collaborative research partnerships between academic and community-based researchers, clinicians, practitioners, community-based organizations, and policy stakeholders to:

- 1) Critically *examine* health policy issues through a “health equity lens”
- 2) *Develop* innovative strategies to address persistent policy gaps and challenges
- 3) Effectively *translate and disseminate* research to inform policy decisions and health practice toward advancing health equity.

The TCC has four primary health policy areas:

- Parenting and Child Psychosocial Development
- Culturally-centered Mental and Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care
- Health Information Technology
- Leadership in Addressing Health Disparities

The TCC is also strategically positioned to support new directions for health policy research through its *Pilot Project Program*. Finally, the TCC is determined to serve as a major convener of diverse policy stakeholders to critically discuss health policy issues share ideas through its quarterly *Health Policy to Practice Forum Series*.

TCC’s portfolio of activities are centered on communities and populations located in the HHS Region IV, the region of the country that historically suffers from the largest racial and ethnic disparities in disease morbidity and mortality (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee). An additional key geographic area of the TCC’s work includes consortium partners that are members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Actions Institute (REHDAI) Coalition (Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas).

Shark Tank Overview:

The TCC Shark Tank is one of the innovative approaches we employ to identify qualified, highly motivated community based partners, health organizations, and academic researchers for collaborative research opportunities in our TCC Pilot Project Program. The objective of the TCC Pilot Project Program is to sustain current and new TCC partners in the full range of health policy research, implementation and dissemination efforts by providing sub-awards, capacity building, and robust technical assistance opportunities. TCC currently supports ten (10) pilot project grantees in diverse health policy subject areas such as community-based parenting leadership and child development; HIV/AIDS; transgender health; cardiovascular disease; kidney transplantation; physical activity and nutrition environments; and cancer screening among Korean Americans. For more information on the TCC Pilot Project Program please visit: <http://www.msmtcc.org/pilotproject>.

Shark Tank Competition Eligibility:

Eligibility for the Shark Tank competition is similar to our TCC Pilot Project Program:

- Both academic and non-academic investigators (e.g. CBOs, health services orgs, etc.) are encouraged to apply.
- Eligibility is open to faculty investigators and organizations operating within states in HHS Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) and CDC REHDAI coalition member states (Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas).
- Academic faculty must hold a full-time faculty appointment at the level of Instructor or higher. Prospective applicants holding an appointment of Instructor must obtain a letter of support from their department chairperson to: 1) verify the full-time faculty appointment; and 2) confirm the department's commitment to support the applicant as a research investigator.
- All academic faculty applicants must identify at least one non-academic organization or group as a key collaborator for their project.
- Community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, health services organizations, businesses, tribal organizations, local government agencies, schools, and other non-academic entities are strongly encouraged to apply.
- All non-academic organizations must identify at least one faculty member at an academic institution as a key collaborator for their project.
- Applicants who have responded to previous Pilot Project requests for applications (RFA) cycles but were not funded are encouraged to revise their project ideas and submit a concept paper for the Shark Tank Competition.
- All applicants must currently be eligible to receive federal funds. This will be determined by the verification of the applicant organization's nine-digit DUNS number.
- All applicants must register for and make plans to attend the TCC Health Policy Research Summit on April 28, 2016 at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. To register, please visit the TCC Summit 2016 website: <http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>.

The following parties are **NOT** eligible for the Shark Tank:

- Current Pilot Project grantees, and grantees that have completed TCC pilot projects.
- Prospective grantees that have submitted applications and have received a "recommended for funding" decision. These applications are currently under NIH review and thus ineligible for participation in Shark Tank.
- Applicants who recently submitted applications to the Cohort 4 Pilot Project RFA. These applications are currently under TCC Scientific Review and thus ineligible for participation in Shark Tank.
- TCC Investigators currently engaged as key personnel in a TCC research subproject or core may not serve as the PI for a pilot project. However, we do encourage TCC investigators to support other prospective applicants as a co-investigator, collaborator, or advisor.

Shark Tank Informational Webinar

An information webinar will be hosted on **Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 1:00 pm EST**. The webinar will be hosted on the GoToMeeting interface; space is limited: Please access the webinar at:

Site to enter webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/963508981>

Audio Call-in number: 1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 963-508-981

The webinar recording and all slides/resources will be posted on the TCC website approximately 24 hours after the webinar. Please view archived material at <http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>.

Shark Tank Concept Paper Submissions:

To be considered for the Shark Tank competition, candidates will submit: 1) a brief abstract (250 words or less) 2) concept paper (2 pages maximum) describing their project; and 3) an abbreviated budget (budget and brief justification). All concept papers must address the following components:

- **Health concern or disparity** the proposed project will address
- **Specific aims** for your proposed pilot project
- A summary of your **proposed research or developmental activities**. Summary should include (if applicable): participant recruitment; data collection methods; description of intervention or research activities; data analyses; any anticipated deliverables or products that will emerge from the research (e.g. publications, policy briefs, guides, curricula, etc.).
- Clarify why you and your organization are **uniquely qualified** for this opportunity.
- Clarify your project's **anticipated policy impact**. How does your project align with the TCC mission to "inform policy and practice with evidence-based science?"

The abbreviated budget will require totals and brief justification statements for each line item of your proposed budget: personnel, consultant/contractors, equipment, supplies, travel, other expenses, and indirect costs/F&A. Please see the Shark Tank FAQ for details on allowable and unallowable costs. Budget page and budget justification templates can be found on the TCC Summit page (<http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>) or downloaded directly [HERE](#).

The concept page limit is 2 pages, single spaced, minimum 11 pt. font, 0.5" margins.

All entries will be submitted to our Shark Tank submission portal at:

<https://fs22.formsite.com/MorehouseTCC/sharktank/index.html>. The portal is also accessible from our TCC Summit webpage: <http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>. Please contact Dr. Jammie Hopkins at jhopkins@msm.edu or call 404-756-8923 if you encounter any challenges with the submission portal.

Deadline extension: Submissions are due by Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 5:00 pm EST. No extensions will be granted.

Submission Review and Selection of Candidates:

Shark Tank submissions will be reviewed by a panel drawn from our Pilot Project Scientific Review Committee. Submissions will be scored based on the innovativeness of the approach, strength and feasibility of the methods described; and potential for policy impact. A total of 5 candidates will be selected to participate in the Shark Tank: 2 "academic" candidates, 2 "non-academic" candidates; and one additional candidate from either group. All applicants will receive a decision letter via email by **Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 5:00 pm EST**. Candidates selected for the Shark Tank will receive an invitation letter and instructions to help them

prepare for the Shark Tank competition. All candidates must respond to the invitation letter by **Friday, April 22, 2015 at 5:00 pm EST**, or risk forfeiture of their candidacy for the competition.

The Shark Tank at TCC Summit:

Selected candidates will attend the TCC Health Policy Research Summit and participate in the TCC Shark Tank competition on **Thursday, April 28, 2016**. The Shark Tank will be hosted live in front of an in-person and web-streaming audience. Candidates will submit a revised project abstract and high-resolution headshot photo to be included in the Summit program guide. Each candidate will deliver a 5-minute pitch to our expert “Shark” panel. Candidates may use visual aids and media to support their pitch. Following each pitch, the Shark Panel will have up to 10 minutes to question the candidate. Audience members will be provided an opportunity to voluntarily submit their anonymous scores at the conclusion of each pitch. Shark Tank candidate scores will be based on the initial concept paper submission, assessment of their pitch, and audience feedback.

Shark Tank winner(s) will be announced at the Summit closing session. Up to \$50,000.00 per award will be committed, contingent on: **1) timely submission of a full pilot project application and associated documents; and 2) application review and approval by NIMHD**. All Shark Tank candidates will be publically acknowledged for their participation in the TCC Shark Tank Competition. Shark Tank candidates not selected for awards will be offered a technical assistance appointment with our TCC Core Team to discuss their concept paper and brainstorm opportunities for extramural funding.

After the Shark Tank:

All Shark Tank winners are required to submit a full application for review and approval by NIMHD to remain eligible for funding. Winners will submit a completed SF424 application packet to the TCC Pilot Project Program no later than **Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 5:00 pm EST**. All applications involving *human subjects research will require IRB review and approval* prior to being submitted to NIMHD for final review and approval. Upon favorable review and approval by NIMHD, shark tank winners will be designated as Pilot Project Grantees and sign a 12-month Research Subaward Agreement with Morehouse School of Medicine TCC. The anticipated start date for the 12-month pilot project (barring any administrative delays) is **August 4, 2016**.

Important Dates and Details

- Informational webinar (optional): Tuesday, March 30, 2016 at 1:00 pm EST
- **Concept Paper Submission Deadline (extended): Tuesday, April 19, 2016 @ 5:00 pm EST**
- Shark Tank decision letters and candidate invitations: Thursday, April 21, 2016 @ 5:00 pm EST
- Candidates respond to Shark Tank Invitations: Friday, April 22, 2016 @ 5:00 pm EST
- Deadline to submit Shark Tank presentations and electronic visual aids: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 @ 5:00 pm EST
- **Shark Tank Competition: Thursday, April 28, 2016**
- Submit entries to: <https://fs22.formsite.com/MorehouseTCC/sharktank/index.html>
- Website: <http://www.msm.edu/tccsummit>

For More Information:

You may refer to our TCC Summit Website for basic information. Please submit all Shark Tank questions and comments to our TCC mailbox at tcc@msm.edu. Please contact our TCC Administrative Core if you have an immediate concern; please allow up to 24 hours for a response:

Divine Offoegbu, DrPH, MPH
TCC Project Manager
Phone: 404-752-1933

Jammie Hopkins, DrPH, MS
TCC Project Director
Phone: 404-756-8923

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