

# INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

## ***Request for Proposals: Community Participatory Health Research***

As government and private funding agencies are putting more and more emphasis on community engaged research, the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) invites grant applications from faculty to forge partnerships with health organizations and agencies (e.g., Carilion, Department of Health, Mental Health services) in the development of social and behavioral health research projects. This grant program provides funding to stimulate collaborative partnerships between Virginia Tech faculty and community agencies to pursue pilot studies, feasibility studies, or other preliminary investigations that will initiate a larger line of research to impact human health.

This initiative requires the use of Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR) principles. Known under various labels (e.g., participatory action research, academic-community partnerships, knowledge development and application), this process of scientific inquiry begins with problem identification that includes the input and perspectives of those from relevant and affected groups, then moves to a collaborative process of research planning, design, execution, analysis, and dissemination, followed by a period of monitoring the impact of research, obtaining feedback and reflecting on the lessons learned. Participatory approaches are typically used to address applied research problems where social, medical, or policy change or improvement is desired. Benefits of this approach include identification of problems that are most relevant and of greatest concern to communities and the development of solutions with high likelihood of ready adaptability and fit to a diverse range of environments.

### Funds Available

Approximately 5 grants will be awarded, with no individual award exceeding \$10,000. Awarded funds will be transferred to the PI's home department and must be expended this fiscal year. Funds can be used toward course buyout in Spring 2010 (with department approval), student support, consultations, technical support, supplies, software, small equipment purchases, travel for research team meetings (outside of the Blacksburg area). Funds will not be awarded for summer salary or conference travel.

### Eligible Investigators:

Proposals are welcome from any and all departments and programs at Virginia Tech. The principal investigator, however, must be a tenure-track or tenured faculty member in a college represented by the ISCE stakeholders (i.e., Liberal Arts and Human Sciences [CLAHS], College of Science [COS], Pamplin College of Business [PCB], Architecture and Urban Studies [CAUS]). Proposals from interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

### Application Instructions

The text of the application should be no longer than 2 pages (single spaced, 12 pt font) and include the following:

1. A brief description of the project (significance, specific aims, methods, anticipated outcomes)
2. List of senior personnel (both VT and health entity) and specific role in the project
3. Budget request and justification
4. Title of anticipated RFA, agency, approximate amount, and date for submission of extramural funding

### Submission

Please submit the attached cover sheet and 2-page proposal to Carlene Arthur at [carthur@vt.edu](mailto:carthur@vt.edu). Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m., December 1, 2009. Awards will be announced the following week.

### Review

The proposals will be reviewed by ISCE staff and evaluated according to the following review criteria:

1. The intellectual merit and innovation of the research
2. Adherence to CBPR models & principles
3. The likelihood that external grant funding can be obtained upon completion of the proposed project

### Reporting Requirements

Awardees are required to submit a brief (1-2 page) report to ISCE by June 1, 2010 that describes grant outcomes and how the funds were expended. Unused funds are to be returned to ISCE.

### Questions

Karen A. Roberto, Director of the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment, [kroberto@vt.edu](mailto:kroberto@vt.edu); 1-7657  
Betsy McDonel Herr, Senior Research Scientist, ISCE, [bmcdherr@vt.edu](mailto:bmcdherr@vt.edu); 1-9250

**Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE)**  
**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY HEALTH RESEARCH PROPOSAL**  
**Cover Sheet**

**Title of Proposal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Partner Organization/Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Names of Participating Personnel:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Virginia Tech Senior Personnel:**

If awarded, I understand that: (a) the award must be expended according to the University's fiscal policies and end-of-year deadlines and (b) I am expected to submit a grant proposal to an external entity by December 31, 2010.

Name (PI)	Department	Email
-----------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

**Department Head/Chair or Center Director Approval:**

I support the faculty member's application to ISCE and understand that the award will be transferred to an operating account of the home department/center and must be expended according to University policies and fiscal end-of-year deadlines. The faculty member is expected to submit a grant proposal to an external funding entity by December 31, 2010.

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------

Name	Department	Email
------	------------	-------