



## Request for Application (RFA) 2022

### Funding Opportunity Purpose

This notice announces two new funding opportunities from Respiratory Health Association (RHA) to support local research projects to improve our understanding of lung health and lead to improvements in treating and curing Lung Cancer and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF).

### Available Awards

1. RHA2022-01-LC: \$75,000 1-year Lung Cancer grant
2. RHA2022-02-IPF: \$25,000 1-year Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis grant

### Key Dates

RFA Announcement	December 6, 2021
LOI Due	December 31, 2021
Application Due	March 18, 2022
Awards Announcement	On or about June 1, 2022
Award Project Period	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

### Background

This Request for Applications (RFA) encourages grant applications from investigators interested in conducting innovative research studies in lung cancer or IPF. Each award will support one established investigator to build upon an existing portfolio of research in the identified research areas OR one junior investigator to develop a research program in lung cancer or IPF.

Respiratory Health Association will award a one-time sum as part of this research initiative. Basic, clinical/translational, and social/behavioral studies are welcomed, but translational research studies are particularly encouraged. The over-arching goal of these awards is to support pilot and feasibility studies with the goal of generating preliminary data that may be used to compete for larger federally funded projects in the future.

### Applicant Eligibility

To be considered for a grant, applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

- The grantee will have a faculty appointment at a Public or Private Institution of Higher Education, OR
- The grantee will be a junior investigator or fellow AND have a faculty mentor at a Public or Private Institution of Higher Education,
- The grantee must be a United States citizen or United States resident; and
- The grantee will be an investigator(s) who works for an institution (or has a research partnership with an organization) located in metropolitan Chicago.

### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

- Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for RHA support.
- Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
- RHA does not support or provide research funding to institutions that accept any form of tobacco industry support. Applicants with current or past relationships with tobacco industry organizations must disclose this upon submission of application.

### **Submission Guidelines**

Separate applications must be submitted if applying for more than one of the two focus areas.

**Page Limitations:** The research plan and strategy should not exceed more than eleven pages. The lay summary, biosketch, and budget justification may be attached as additional pages in your submission.

The application should include the following sections:

1. **Cover Page:** Please complete and include the RHA cover page in your application. The cover page template can be found on the last page of the RFA.
2. **Lay Summary:** Application should include an explanation of the intended study described in lay terms which are easily understood by a non-scientific/non-academic public health audience. This lay summary should be no more than 250 words in length.
3. **Research Plan (6-page limit):**
  - a. **Specific Aims (1 page):**
    - i. State the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
    - ii. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem,

challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

- b. Research Strategy (5-page limit):
  - i. Significance
    1. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
    2. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
    3. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
  - ii. Innovation
    1. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
    2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    3. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
4. Biosketch of all Senior/Key Personnel Profile: Please submit biosketches for all key personnel in current [NIH Format](#).
5. Budget: A budget spreadsheet along with narrative of budget justification is required for this project which includes percent effort for key personnel and details all other expenses. **Please note per RHA policy the award does not support indirect costs.** You may use the template included which can be found on the RHA [Funding Opportunities page](#).

We do not require institutional endorsement; however, we will accept it if that is consistent with your institutional policy.

Applications must be submitted electronically by **5:00PM (CST) on March 18, 2022** to Hannah Mestyaneck, MHA at [hmestyaneck@resphealth.org](mailto:hmestyaneck@resphealth.org). Paper applications will not be accepted.

### **Application Review Information**

**Overall Impact:** Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).



Scored Review Criteria: Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s): Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early-Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

### **Submission**

Letter of Intent: We request that the applicant submit a non-binding letter of intent by **5:00pm CT on December 31, 2021**. The letter of intent will give us a sense of the number of proposals to expect and allow us to plan accordingly. Letters should be emailed to [hlestantyanek@resphealth.org](mailto:hlestyanek@resphealth.org).

Application Submission: Applications must be submitted electronically by **5:00PM (CST) on March 18, 2022** to [hlestantyanek@resphealth.org](mailto:hlestyanek@resphealth.org). Paper applications will not be accepted.

### **Contact Information**

For questions, please contact:

Hannah Mestyanek, MHA  
Senior Program Coordinator  
Respiratory Health Association  
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Telephone: (312) 628-0207



## RHA Research Award Application Cover Page

Name of Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Focus (Check one):

Lung Cancer

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

Investigator Email and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_