

2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
California Firearm Violence Research Center
Research Grant Award Program
Deadline: May 15, 2024

Summary

The California Firearm Violence Research Center (CA FVRC) at the University of California, Davis is seeking proposals to support rigorous and equitable research on the causes, consequences, and/or prevention of violence and evaluations of policies and interventions that expand the evidence about what contributes to preventing violence and improving safety and equity outcomes. Because this grant award program is funded by the State of California, projects must include California-based study teams. Early-stage investigators, including those who completed a terminal research degree within the past five calendar years (counting all or part of a year as a full year), postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students may receive priority consideration in funding decisions. **Note:** There are additional eligibility requirements for proposals to support the research of postdoctoral scholars and graduate students.

The CA FVRC welcomes proposals to support rigorous quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research and evaluation projects on all forms of violence experienced by children, youth, and adults (e.g., community violence, intimate partner violence, mass shootings, political violence, suicide) and is particularly interested in projects that center on the needs and experiences of communities with the greatest burdens of violence and structural or systemic inequities. Proposals that involve authentic engagement and collaboration with community partners are encouraged.

This request for proposals offers two funding categories: (1) small grants (up to \$25,000) available to all investigators, and (2) large grants (up to \$100,000) available to all investigators excluding postdoctoral scholars and graduate students. Applicants should clearly indicate their chosen funding category on the application's Cover Page. Proposals to either funding category may not exceed a two-year period of performance and may be shorter.

Total funds available: \$250,000
Anticipated number of small grant awards: 2
Anticipated number of large grant awards: 2
Small grant award ceiling: \$25,000
Large grant award ceiling: \$100,000
Period of performance: up to 2 years
Proposals due: May 15, 2024, 11:59 p.m. PDT
Anticipated notice of award: July 2024
Anticipated start date: October 2024

Background

In 2016, the State of California authorized the creation of a first-of-its-kind research center focused on firearm violence and designated the Violence Prevention Research Program (VPRP) at the University of California, Davis as the new home for this center. The California Firearm Violence Research Center (CA FVRC) began operation on July 4, 2017.

The mission of the CA FVRC is to conduct basic, translational, and transformative research that provides sound scientific evidence on the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of firearm violence; to disseminate that evidence and promote the adoption of evidence-informed firearm violence prevention measures; and to expand and extend such efforts through education and training in firearm violence research and its applications.

The CA FVRC established a grant award program in 2019. This program has two overarching objectives: (1) to support rigorous and equitable research and evaluation studies that build on and extend the mission of the CA FVRC, and (2) to expand the number and the cultural, social, and experiential diversity of investigators who are producing actionable evidence about strategies for reducing and preventing firearm violence and advancing safety and equity outcomes.

The three more specific goals of the grant award program are to: (1) support the generation of new and expanded knowledge about the causes and/or consequences of violence and violence inequities, as well as what contributes to preventing violence and improving safety and equity outcomes; (2) assist new and early-stage investigators as they deepen understanding of and build programs of research on violence prevention; and (3) support the early and conceptual stages of project development that will enhance the competitiveness of R01-scale proposals to funders such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Justice.

While the CA FVRC places emphasis on the study and practice of firearm violence prevention, we recognize the interconnections among and co-occurrence of multiple forms of violence-related harms, as well as the promise of integrated prevention and intervention strategies that address the common underlying factors and common impacts of many forms of violence at once. Scholars proposing projects on all forms of violence, including but not limited to firearm violence, are therefore equally encouraged to apply.

Examples of topic areas that may be well-aligned with this grant award program include scientific investigations to:

- Deepen understanding of the causes and/or consequences of violence and violence inequities at the individual, community, and societal levels, with emphasis on one or more understudied populations (e.g., immigrant, refugee, unhoused, LGBTQ+, and Indigenous communities);
- Evaluate the processes, implementation, and/or impacts of policies and interventions that address the structural and social determinants of risk for exposure to or involvement in violence, as a victim or an offender or in a community; and
- Identify new opportunities to understand and/or reverse trends in violence and improve safety and equity outcomes at the individual, community, and/or societal levels, including criminal-legal system decision making and risk prediction.

These examples are intended to stimulate thinking, not to serve as rigid guidelines or constraints. Applicants should submit proposals using any appropriate combination of rigorous research or evaluation design and methods, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. Consideration should be given to the feasibility of the project timeline (up to 2 years) and budget (depending on the funding category, up to \$25,000 or up to \$100,000). Use of secondary data, data with established/existing access, and/or rapid primary data collection methods are therefore recommended. We encourage multi-disciplinary collaborative projects that are centered on the needs and experiences of communities with the greatest burdens of violence

and systemic inequity and those that can catalyze policy, systems, and environmental changes at the local and/or state levels. Authentic community engagement and collaboration is encouraged when appropriate.

Eligibility and Exclusions

For this grant award program, principal investigators (PIs) and co-principal investigators (co-PIs) must be employed (or enrolled) at two- or four-year institutions of higher education (including community colleges) or other qualified nonprofit research institutions located in California. PIs and co-PIs must supervise the project directly and must take responsibility for all administrative and scientific aspects of the project's performance.

Postdoctoral scholars and graduate students are eligible and encouraged to apply for small grants (up to \$25,000) to support their own research. However, proposals to support the research of a postdoctoral scholar or graduate student must be submitted with a PI and a co-PI. The PI must be the faculty advisor of the postdoctoral scholar/graduate student and they must be located at the same research institution. The postdoctoral scholar or graduate student must serve as the co-PI on the proposal. "Postdoctoral Scholar [or Graduate Student] Research:" should be listed as the prefix before the substantive title of the proposal. The substantive title of the proposal should follow.

U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for eligibility.

CA FVRC faculty are not eligible to apply.

An investigator may serve as a PI (or co-PI) on only one active CA FVRC research grant at any one time.

Special Instructions

For applicants at University of California campuses, this is not considered a Multiple Campus Award, nor is this a sponsored research funding announcement. Do not submit your proposal (or award) through your Sponsored Programs Office. Funded researchers at University of California campuses will receive funding via the Interlocation Transfer of Funds (ITF) process as an adjustment to your base budget. Campuses must be able to receive State General Funds 19956 and the receiving fund information (chart of account string) must be provided on the application's Cover Page. Contact your fiscal manager with any questions.

For funded researchers at all other qualified nonprofit research institutions, your award documents will be in the form of a purchase order and will be subject to the standard University of California, Davis purchasing terms and conditions.

Allowable Costs and Budget Restrictions

These research grant awards are subject to the University of California restrictions on use of State General Funds.

1. Allowable Costs and Budget Justification: Project budgets may include allowable expenditures that are incurred to directly support research activities only. Funding requests must be well-justified and conform to the budget guidelines detailed in the budget instructions and accompanying template. Funds may be used to support salary and benefit costs for project personnel.

2. **Non-Allowable Costs and Budget Restrictions:** Funding provided by this grant award program may not be used to pay for funded salary above the NIH salary cap or any portion of a health sciences compensation plan base salary that exceeds the fiscal year salary scale for the plan member's rank and step. Funds also may not be used for any optional additional compensation in excess of the base salary.

Funding provided by this grant award program may not be used to cover patient care costs, clinical trials, program delivery, patent execution costs, fundraising costs, incentives or gifts or non-cash awards to employees or non-employees, food or alcohol, employee morale events, travel, subawards, equipment, or indirect costs. Other non-allowable costs include additional compensation for lectures or similar services, honoraria, memberships, raffle prizes, door prizes, student aid for nonresident undergraduate students, tickets to entertainment or sporting events, or tobacco purchases. **Note:** In exceptional cases, supplemental funds up to \$500 may be requested through a separate funding mechanism to provide stipends to research study participants. To apply for these funds, you must submit a separate funding request using the template provided.

Funds may not be requested to provide core institutional support or to supplement funding for existing projects already supported by other sources of funding.

Funds may not be used for advocacy efforts designed to influence state or federal legislation.

3. **Subawards:** This grant award program does not allow subawards. Activities to support collaboration with community organizations should be considered purchased services and require a scope of work from the partner organization to justify the line-item cost. The same restrictions on allowable and unallowable costs apply to purchased services.
4. **Consultants:** Consultant costs are allowable, for individuals who are subject matter experts and who provide professional or technical advice. Consultant effort is associated with specific deliverables and not the overall project objectives, and typically does not justify authorship on publications resulting from their effort on the project. Consultant services should be considered advisory services and require a scope of work and expected deliverables.
5. **Cost-sharing/matching:** Not required.
6. **Indirect costs:** Per Budget Act of 2019, funds appropriated to the CA FVRC (after July 1, 2019) may not include any assessments for indirect costs.

Overview of Application and Review Process

All proposals must be received by 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 15, 2024.

Late proposals will not be considered. Proposals that do not adhere to content and formatting guidelines may not be reviewed.

Proposals should be prepared using 11-pt Arial font with margins no smaller than 0.5" and no larger than 1" around and may use single or 1.5 line spacing.

Proposal reviewers will have subject matter expertise in violence research, medicine, epidemiology, the social and public health sciences, and biostatistics. Final funding decisions and selection are at the discretion of the CA FVRC.

Proposal Components:

1. Cover Page (1 page maximum): Applications should include a cover page using the template provided with the title of the proposed project, name(s) of the principal and co-principal investigator(s) and their contact information, organizational/institutional affiliation(s), fiscal manager (or purchasing office) contact information, and receiving fund information (chart of account string). Please also indicate to which funding category (small or large grant) you are applying and whether the PI or co-PI is an early-stage investigator, postdoctoral scholar, or graduate student. **Note:** The title of proposals to support the research of postdoctoral scholars and graduate students should list “Postdoctoral Scholar [or Graduate Student] Research:” as the prefix, followed by the substantive title of the proposal.
2. Purpose Statement (50 words maximum): Briefly describe the overarching aim(s) of your project.
3. Abstract/Project Summary (300 words maximum): Summarize the key activities and contributions of the project. The abstract should be appropriate for a general scholarly audience and avoid disciplinary jargon or technical language specific to a single field.
4. Proposed Research Plan (6 pages maximum, including tables and figures, not including references): Identify the specific aims and related hypothesis; project significance and innovation; research activities including the specifics of the study design, data to be used, and analysis plan; anticipated outcomes and scholarly contributions; strengths and limitations; and the project’s potential as preliminary work for future research on violence.
5. Itemized Budget and Budget Justification (4 pages maximum): Provide a detailed budget using the template provided and a budget justification describing the significant project expenditures and the composition and expertise of the core project team and their roles on the project. Justifications for consultants/purchased services must include a scope of work from the consultant or purchased service organization.
6. Timeframe and Milestones (~1/2 page): Provide a table identifying the project timeline, benchmarks, and milestones.
7. Dissemination Plan (~1/2 page): Describe the channels of dissemination for project findings. Address how findings will reach audiences beyond the research community: e.g., appropriate practitioners, policymakers, advocates, communities affected by violence, and the general public. Funded researchers will also be expected to work with the CA FVRC Education and Communication team, at this team’s discretion, on products for broadly disseminating project findings to diverse end users. Please include a statement indicating your willingness to collaborate with the CA FVRC on strategic dissemination efforts.
8. Commitment to Equity and Health Justice (~1/2 page): Describe the ways in which the project will contribute to advancing equity and health justice outcomes. Consider articulating why a particular population was chosen for or will be impacted by this investigation and how their perspectives have been or will be integrated into the project. If appropriate, discuss the positionality of the research team and the ways in which the team will contribute to expanding the cultural, social, and experiential diversity of the violence prevention field.
9. Prior CA FVRC support (1 page maximum): If the PI or another key investigator has previously received support from the CA FVRC, briefly answer the following questions: What research project(s) were initiated, and were they completed? How were results disseminated (include

citations to presentations and publications, where appropriate)? What was the significance of that work?

10. Attachments: Attachments must include the following materials:

- a) Reference list. **Note:** There is no required citation style.
- b) Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae (CV) for the PI and other key investigators (anyone expected to appear as a co-author on study publication). **Note:** There is no required Biosketch/CV format (NIH biosketch, NSF, and other standard formats are acceptable).
- c) Letter(s) of commitment assuring availability of data or other resources that will be required to complete the project.
- d) For proposals to support the research of postdoctoral scholars and graduate students, a signed letter from the faculty advisor serving as the PI of the proposal affirming that, with support and mentoring from the PI, the postdoctoral scholar/graduate student will be able to undertake the proposed project soon after an award is made. In addition, the PI must affirm that they have read the proposal and believe that it makes a strong case for CA FVRC support of the proposed research. The PI must also affirm that they have (or will have) a receiving account for State General Funds 19956.
- e) Identification of any human subjects (IRB), animal use, or toxic substance matters and the approach to compliance (1 page summary maximum). A final IRB determination that the project is approved or exempt from review will be required before funding can be provided.
- f) A statement of agreement with the requirement that all recipients of funding will provide copies of their research publications to the CA FVRC, as soon as is practicable following publication, for submission to the California State Legislature.

Review Criteria

Overall Impact

Informed by the following review criteria, reviewers will submit an overall impact score for each project. Project impact scores represent the project's potential to substantially contribute to the field of violence prevention research. Although projects will receive distinct scores for each criterion, uniformly high scores are not required for a reviewer to deem a proposal as likely to substantially impact the field of violence prevention research.

Significance

If the project aims were successfully achieved, how would this change the field's major concepts, understanding of violence and its prevention, research methods, or contributions to advancing equity and health justice outcomes? Does the proposed research represent more than an incremental advance? How would this project resolve unanswered questions, debates, or barriers in the field, or overcome methodological limitations of extant research? How would the project advance the field of violence prevention research, and what is the significance of the project's contribution to scientific knowledge on the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and equitable innovations in public and community safety?

Investigator(s)

Are the investigators well suited to the project? Do they have the appropriate experience and training to carry out their role(s)? Have they published research on the nature, causes, consequences, and/or prevention of violence? Do they have experience conducting studies similar in scope and methodology to the proposed work? Has the team worked together previously? Do the team members have complementary and integrated expertise? Do established investigators have an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced the field of violence prevention research? Does the PI or co-PI qualify as an early-stage investigator (completed a terminal research degree within the past 5 years), postdoctoral scholar, or graduate student? Are postdoctoral scholars and graduate students adequately mentored? Were provisions made to contribute to growing and/or diversifying the pool of researchers in the field of violence prevention through the inclusion of key personnel and/or learners involved in supporting the project (e.g., graduate/undergraduate student research assistants)?

Innovation

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

Approach

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to the specific aims of the project? Are the proposed strategy, methodology, and analyses sufficiently rigorous to achieve reliable and meaningful results? Does the proposal identify potential problems and limitations, include a plan for addressing them, and propose viable alternative strategies to achieve the aims of the study? If appropriate, does the approach include assessing the fidelity of implementation? For projects in the early stages of development, does the proposal include a strategy to establish feasibility and manage particularly risky aspects of the study?

Environment

Does the institution have an established record of conducting research and/or evaluation on violence and its prevention? Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements? Does the scientific environment offer the expertise and staffing necessary to support the resources demanded by this project?

Dissemination

Will the primary channels of dissemination for project findings reach diverse and relevant stakeholders, including both research and non-research audiences, inside and outside of academic settings? Will the dissemination of findings foster broader awareness of the study and/or practice of violence prevention and/or safety promotion? Does the applicant include a statement indicating their willingness to contribute to CA FVRC strategic dissemination efforts?

Equity and Health Justice

Does the applicant address how the project will contribute to advancing equity and health justice outcomes, particularly among populations at greatest risk of experiencing violence and violence inequities? To what extent will the project engage members of communities affected by violence or inequity in project planning, processes, and decision-making? Will the project advance the power of communities to equitably and sustainably create conditions that support safety and health? Does the project provide opportunities for career enhancement for members from groups underrepresented in the violence prevention field? Is there representation from structurally marginalized populations in leadership positions within the research team?

Additional Award Information and Expectations for Grantees

Research grant awards are contingent on the availability of funding and compliance with all research and reporting requirements. Grantees must submit progress reports annually, due no later than 60 days after the end of each one-year budget period for projects with two-year periods of performance and no later than 60 days after the completion of the project for projects with one-year periods of performance. Progress reports should include a description of the completion status of each specific aim or project objective and a list of any presentations and/or publications completed, submitted, or planned (with citations and/or copies of publications, if applicable). Grantees must also provide a final fiscal expenditure report, due no later than 60 days after the completion of the project for projects with both one and two-year periods of performance.

Submission Process

All documents should be incorporated into a single PDF file and sent by email to Amanda Aubel, M.P.H., at ajaubel@ucdavis.edu and to the CA FVRC inbox at hs-fvrc@ucdavis.edu. Please include in the subject line, "CA FVRC Research Grant Award Program 2024".

Further Information

This RFP is available at https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/FVRC/grants_programs.html. For general questions about the content of the RFP or the application process, please contact Amanda Aubel, M.P.H., at ajaubel@ucdavis.edu. For questions about allowable costs and budget justification or non-allowable costs and budget restrictions, please contact the CA FVRC at hs-fvrc@ucdavis.edu or at 916-734-3539. **Email is the preferred and most efficient method of contact.** We will publish frequently asked questions and responses at the program website. Questions must be submitted by April 24 for publication at the program website by May 1.

More details on the CA FVRC are available at <https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/FVRC/index.html>. The Center's authorizing legislation, the California Firearm Violence Research Act, can be found in the California Penal Code, beginning at section 14230.