Funding Opportunities in Key Areas

Note: Funding opportunities are listed in order of expiration date, beginning with those that will expire soonest.

Obesity/Obesity Prevention/Healthy Weight Management:

- **Behavioral Interventions to Address Multiple Chronic Health Conditions in Primary Care (R01)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires January 8, 2014.

  **Purpose:** This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) seeks Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to use a common conceptual model to develop behavioral interventions to modify health behaviors and improve health outcomes in patients with comorbid chronic diseases and health conditions. Specifically, this FOA will support research in primary care that uses a multi-disease care management approach to behavioral interventions with high potential impact to improve patient-level health outcomes for individuals with three or more chronic health conditions. The proposed approach must modify behaviors using a common approach rather than administering a distinct intervention for each targeted behavior and/or condition. Diseases and health conditions can include, but are not limited to: mental health disorders (e.g., depression), diabetes, smoking, obesity, chronic pain, alcohol and substance abuse and dependence, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer and hypertension.

- **Virtual Reality Technologies for Research and Education in Obesity and Diabetes (R01) (NIH)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2014.

  **Purpose:** To encourage submission of hypothesis-testing research applications that capitalize on the unique capabilities of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies to visualize outcomes, teach, motivate, and to extend the health care and learning environments, in order to foster desirable eating, physical activity, self-care, and other health-related behaviors necessary for prevention and management of obesity and diabetes. Of highest interest are well-designed multidisciplinary projects drawing on expertise in VR technologies and biomedical behavioral and pedagogical sciences. The overall goal is to develop the potential of VR technologies as research tools for behavioral science-oriented studies in diabetes and obesity, and as practical tools for clinical and public health practice.

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health-level prevention and management of obesity and diabetes.

- **Virtual Reality Technologies for Research and Education in Obesity and Diabetes (R21) (NIH)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2014.

  **Purpose:** To encourage submission of hypothesis-testing research applications that capitalize on the unique capabilities of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies to visualize outcomes, teach, motivate, and to extend the health care and learning environments, in order to foster desirable eating, physical activity, self-care, and other health-related behaviors necessary for prevention and management of obesity and diabetes. Of highest interest are well-designed multidisciplinary projects drawing on expertise in VR technologies and biomedical behavioral and pedagogical sciences. The overall goal is to develop the potential of VR technologies as research tools for behavioral science-oriented studies in diabetes and obesity, and as practical tools for clinical and public health-level prevention and management of obesity and diabetes.

- **Obesity and Asthma: Awareness and Management (R01) (NIH)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires September 8, 2014.

  **Purpose:** For research to examine the interconnections of asthma and obesity. The prevalences of both asthma and obesity have significantly risen in the past few decades. Although the association between these 2 conditions has been found in many studies, the exact mechanisms for how this association arises are unresolved. Because both of these conditions have their beginnings in early life, an aspect of the association between them that requires more understanding is their common exposures in early life. Studies that investigate the molecular pathways linking asthma and obesity are encouraged. In addition, intervention studies targeting asthma or obesity and their effects on each one, and possible mechanisms of action are encouraged.

- **Prevention and Treatment of Obesity, Diabetes, and Chronic Kidney Disease in Military Populations (R01) (NIH)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Dates:** January 14, 2014; May 13, 2014; September, 2014

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Purpose: For Research Project Grant (R01) applications on prevention and treatment of obesity, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease in military personnel (active duty and retired) and their families.

- Maternal Nutrition and Pre-pregnancy Obesity: Effects on Mothers, Infants and Children (R01) (NIH)


Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A

Application Due Date: Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires January 8, 2015.

Purpose: For R01 applications to improve health outcomes for women, infants and children, by stimulating interdisciplinary research focused on maternal nutrition and pre-pregnancy obesity. Maternal health significantly impacts not only the mother but also the intrauterine environment, and subsequently fetal development and the health of the newborn.

- Planning Grants for Translational Research to Improve Obesity and Diabetes Outcomes (R34) (NIH)


Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A


Purpose: For NIH Clinical Trial Planning Grant Program grant (R34) applications from institutions/organizations to develop and pilot test practical, sustainable, acceptable, and cost efficient adaptations of efficacious strategies or approaches prevent and treat diabetes and/or obesity. Research must target the prevention or reversal of obesity, prevention of type 2 diabetes, improved care of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, or the prevention or delay of the complications of these conditions. NIMH encourages research focused on people with severe mental illness (SMI), whose risk for obesity and type 2 diabetes is twice that of the general population. The approaches tested should have the potential to be widely disseminated to clinical practice, individuals and communities at risk.

- Translational Research to Improve Obesity and Diabetes Outcomes (R18)


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Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A


Purpose: The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) encourages NIH Research Demonstration and Dissemination Project grant (R18) applications from institutions/organizations to test practical, sustainable, acceptable, and cost efficient adaptations of efficacious strategies or approaches prevent and treat diabetes and/or obesity. Research must target the prevention or reversal of obesity, prevention of type 2 diabetes, improved care of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, or the prevention or delay of the complications of these conditions. The approaches tested should have the potential to be widely disseminated to clinical practice, individuals and communities at risk.

- Exploratory/Developmental Clinical Research Grants in Obesity (R21) (NIH)

  Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A

  Application Due Date: Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2015.

  Purpose: For research grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to conduct exploratory/developmental clinical studies that will accelerate the development of effective interventions for prevention or treatment of overweight or obesity in adults and/or children. Exploratory epidemiological research with a goal of informing translational/clinical research will also be supported within this program.

- Secondary Analyses in Obesity, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (R21) (NIH)

  Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A

  Application Due Date: Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2015.

  Purpose: For R21 applications that propose to conduct secondary analysis of existing data sets relevant to diabetes and endocrine and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases and nutrition, including obesity and eating disorders; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. The goal of this program is to facilitate research that explores innovative hypotheses through the use of existing data sets.

- Time-Sensitive Obesity Policy and Program Evaluation (R01) (NIH)

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• **Role of Environmental Chemical Exposures in the Development of Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome (R21) (NIH)**


  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. September 8, 2015.

  **Purpose:** For encourages grant applications to understand the role of environmental chemical exposures in the development of obesity, type 2 diabetes and/or metabolic syndrome. Applications must link an environmental exposure to the increased incidence of weight gain, type 2 diabetes and aspects of metabolic syndrome in animal models or human studies. While any exposure window is acceptable it is anticipated that the most sensitive time for exposures to affect the disease outcomes will be during development e.g., in utero and/or neonatal or early childhood. For human studies developmental exposures (in utero and early childhood) should be linked to early biomarkers of disease onset. Animal studies should focus on identifying new environmental chemicals that alter weight gain, insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance and altered lipid metabolism indicative of obesity, type 2 diabetes and/or metabolic syndrome.

• **Translational Research to Improve Obesity and Diabetes Outcomes (R18) (NIH)**


  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. September 8, 2015.

  **Purpose:** For NIH Research Demonstration and Dissemination Project grant (R18) applications from institutions/organizations to test practical, sustainable, acceptable, and cost efficient adaptations of efficacious strategies or approaches prevent and treat diabetes and/or obesity. Research must target the prevention or reversal of obesity, prevention of type 2 diabetes, improved care of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, or the prevention or delay of the complications of these conditions. The approaches tested should have the potential to be widely disseminated to clinical practice, individuals and communities at risk.

• **Physical activity and weight control interventions among cancer survivors: Effects on biomarkers of prognosis and survival (R01) (NIH)**


  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. September 8, 2015.

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If you would like support applying for any of these opportunities, please contact Dr. Pam Factor-Litvak, Associate Dean for Research Resources (R²) at prf1@columbia.edu.
**Purpose:** For transdisciplinary and translational research that will identify specific biological or biobehavioral pathways through which physical activity and/or weight control (either weight loss or avoidance of weight gain) may affect cancer prognosis and survival. Research applications must test the effects of physical activity or weight control or both interventions on biomarkers of cancer prognosis among cancer survivors identified by previous animal or observational research, which may include but are not limited to intervention-induced changes in sex hormones, insulin or insulin-like growth factors or their binding proteins, insulin resistance, glucose metabolism, leptin and other adipokines, immunologic or inflammatory factors, oxidative stress and DNA damage or repair capacity, angiogenesis, or prostaglandins. This research will require transdisciplinary approaches that bring together behavioral intervention expertise, cancer biology, and other basic and clinical science disciplines relevant to the pathways being studied. Understanding the pathways through which these interventions are effective would identify the optimal type and intensity of intervention and determine who is most likely to benefit from these interventions by cancer type, age, or other host factors.

- **Physical activity and weight control interventions among cancer survivors: Effects on biomarkers of prognosis and survival (R21) (NIH)**
  

**Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

**Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. September 8, 2015.

**Purpose:** For transdisciplinary and translational research that will identify specific biological or biobehavioral pathways through which physical activity and/or weight control (either weight loss or avoidance of weight gain) may affect cancer prognosis and survival. Research applications must test the effects of physical activity or weight control or both interventions on biomarkers of cancer prognosis among cancer survivors identified by previous animal or observational research, which may include but are not limited to intervention-induced changes in sex hormones, insulin or insulin-like growth factors or their binding proteins, insulin resistance, glucose metabolism, leptin and other adipokines, immunologic or inflammatory factors, oxidative stress and DNA damage or repair capacity, angiogenesis, or prostaglandins. This research will require transdisciplinary approaches that bring together behavioral intervention expertise, cancer biology, and other basic and clinical science disciplines relevant to the pathways being studied. Understanding the pathways through which these interventions are effective would identify the optimal type and intensity of intervention and determine who is most likely to benefit from these interventions by cancer type, age, or other host factors.

- **Early-Stage Pharmacological Validation of Novel Targets and Accompanying Pre-Therapeutic Leads for Diseases of Interest to the NIDDK (R01)**
  

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Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A

Application Due Date: Standard NIH Due Dates apply. March 8, 2016.

Purpose: The overarching goal of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to promote translation of basic science research into knowledge and tools that can be utilized to provide strong justification for later-phase drug discovery and development efforts in areas relevant to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. This includes obesity, diabetes and related aspects of endocrinology and metabolism, digestive diseases, liver diseases, nutrition, kidney and urological diseases, hematology, and specific aspects of cystic fibrosis. For additional information on disease areas of interest to the NIDDK, please see http://www2.niddk.nih.gov/Research/.

Its objective is to stimulate research and technology development to promote the early-stage pharmacological validation of drug targets and accompanying small molecule chemical scaffolds or non-viral biologics that are not currently a focus within the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. It is expected that there is significant novelty in either the target, chemical scaffold, or non-viral biologic itself, or in the approaches used to pursue further target validation. It is not intended to support research focused on understanding normal biology, disease processes, or generating lists of putative new targets.

At the end of the project period, a successful project will have provided a significant contribution to the data supporting the validity of modulating a target’s activity for safe, efficacious treatment of a disease using a small molecule or non-viral biologic approach.

- School Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors and Weight Outcomes (R01)


Letter of Intent Due Date: N/A

Application Due Date: Standard NIH Due Dates apply. May 8, 2016.

Purpose: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is issued by the National Institutes of Health’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). The FOA encourages Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to: (1) foster multidisciplinary research that will evaluate how policies (federal, state and school district levels) can influence school physical activity and nutrition environments, youths’ obesogenic behaviors (e.g., nutrition and physical activity behaviors), and weight outcomes; (2) understand how schools are implementing these policies and examine multi-level influences on adoption and implementation at various levels (e.g., federal, state, school district, and school); and (3) understand the synergistic or counteractive effect of school nutrition and physical activity polices on the home and community environment and body weight.

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If you would like support applying for any of these opportunities, please contact Dr. Pam Factor-Litvak, Associate Dean for Research Resources (R²) at prf1@columbia.edu.
• **School Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors, and Weight Outcomes (R21)**


   **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

   **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

   **Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is issued by the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). The FOA encourages Research Project Grant (R21) applications that propose to: (1) foster multidisciplinary research that will evaluate how policies (federal, state and school district levels) can influence school physical activity and nutrition environments, youths’ obesogenic behaviors (e.g., nutrition and physical activity behaviors), and weight outcomes; (2) understand how schools are implementing these policies and examine multi-level influences on adoption and implementation at various levels (e.g., federal, state, school district, and school); and (3) understand the synergistic or counteractive effect of school nutrition and physical activity polices on the home and community environment and body weight.

• **School Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors and Weight Outcomes (R03)**


   **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

   **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

   **Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is issued by the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). The FOA encourages research project grant (R03) applications that propose to: (1) foster multidisciplinary research that will evaluate how policies (federal, state and school district levels) can influence school physical activity and nutrition environments, youths’ obesogenic behaviors (e.g., nutrition and physical activity behaviors), and weight outcomes; (2) understand how schools are implementing these policies and examine multi-level influences on adoption and implementation at various levels (e.g., federal, state, school district, and school); and (3) understand the synergistic or counteractive effect of school nutrition and physical activity polices on the home and community environment and body weight. The R03 grant mechanism supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology.

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- **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention--Integrated Approaches to Prevent Childhood Obesity (National Institute of Agriculture- NIFA/USDA)**
  

  **Purpose:** For FY 2013, subject to availability of funds, it is anticipated that approximately $5 million will be made available to support new awards within the AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention Area. In the Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area, specific program areas are designed to achieve the long-term outcomes of reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children and adolescents. Project types supported by AFRI within this Challenge Area will propose multi-function Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects, and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants. A successful integrated project will include all three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (i.e., research, education, and extension) within a project, focused around a problem or issue. This RFA identifies research, education, extension and integrated program objectives, eligibility criteria, and matching requirements for each project type.

- **Addressing Health Disparities in NIDDK Diseases (R01)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

  **Purpose:** The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeks research to improve understanding of the causes of high priority diseases in the United States and to develop and test more effective interventions for reducing/eliminating health disparities. Research is encouraged in the following high priority diseases within the scientific mission areas of the NIDDK: diabetes, obesity, nutrition-related disorders, hepatitis C, gallbladder disease, H. Pylori infection, sickle cell disease, kidney diseases, urologic diseases, hematologic diseases, metabolic, gastrointestinal, hepatic, and renal complications from infection with HIV.

- **Home and Family Based Approaches for the Prevention or Management of Overweight or Obesity in Early Childhood (R01)**
  

  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

  **Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites Research Project Grant (R01) applications from institutions/organizations that propose randomized clinical
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trials testing novel home- or family-based interventions for the prevention or management of overweight in infancy and early childhood. Tested interventions can use behavioral (including dietary and physical activity), environmental, or other relevant approaches. Applications should focus on infants and young children (to age 6 years) and emphasize the role of home environment and the influence of family/extended family members and parents (including guardians/ substantial care providers) within the child's home environment. The direct goal of this initiative is to fund research that will advance knowledge for innovative approaches to the prevention or management of overweight in children less than 6 years of age, with potential for future translation to applications either in the home or linked to a community setting. Research should consider the familial mechanisms of behavior such as the role of families in the initiation, support, and reinforcement of fundamental food and beverage consumption, physical activity practices, and sedentary behaviors. In addition, it is of interest to elucidate various underlying behavioral determinants that are crucial to initiate or sustain changes in behaviors that impact energy balance. Research designs may include linkages with other settings (e.g., daycare, pre-school, or other community venues) or other care providers (e.g., health care providers or teachers) but must include infants or children less than age 6 years as the primary study participant along with parents, and/or other family members residing with the child. The overarching goal is to identify interventions that influence parent and child behaviors that contribute to inappropriate weight gain, and thereby improve subsequent health status in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood for which overweight is a known risk factor.

- **Home and Family Based Approaches for the Prevention or Management of Overweight or Obesity in Early Childhood (R21)**


  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

  **Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites exploratory pilot/feasibility study and small clinical trial (R21) applications from institutions/organizations that propose to test novel home or family based interventions for the prevention or management of overweight in infancy and early childhood. Tested interventions can use behavioral (including dietary and physical activity), environmental, or other relevant approaches. Applications should focus on infants and young children (to age 6 years) and emphasize the role of home environment and the influence of family/extended family members and parents (including guardians/ substantial care providers) within the child's home environment. The direct goal of this initiative is to fund research that will advance knowledge for innovative approaches to the prevention or management of overweight in children less than 6 years of age, with potential for future translation to applications either in the home or linked to a community setting. Research should consider the familial mechanisms of behavior such as the role of families in the initiation, support, and reinforcement of fundamental food and beverage consumption, physical activity practices, and sedentary behaviors. In addition, it is of interest to elucidate various underlying behavioral determinants that are crucial to initiate or sustain changes in behaviors that impact energy balance. Research designs may include linkages with other settings (e.g., daycare, pre-school, or other community venues) or other care providers (e.g., health care providers or teachers) but must include infants or children less than age 6 years as the primary study participant along with parents, and/or other family members residing with the child. The overarching goal is to identify interventions that influence parent and child behaviors that contribute to inappropriate weight gain, and thereby improve subsequent health status in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood for which overweight is a known risk factor.

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linkages with other settings (e.g., daycare, pre-school, or other community venues) or
other care providers (e.g., health care providers or teachers) but must include infants or
children less than age 6 years as the primary study participant along with parents, and/or
other family members residing with the child. The overarching goal is to identify
interventions that influence parent and child behaviors that contribute to inappropriate
weight gain, and thereby improve subsequent health status in childhood, adolescence,
and adulthood for which overweight is a known risk factor.

- **Obesity Policy Evaluation Research (R01)**


  **Letter of Intent Due Date:** N/A

  **Application Due Date:** Standard NIH Due Dates apply. Expires May 8, 2016.

  **Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages Research
  Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to evaluate large scale policy or programs
  that are expected to influence obesity related behaviors (e.g., dietary intake, physical
  activity, or sedentary behavior) and/or weight outcomes in an effort to prevent or reduce
  obesity.

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of a subsequent application.

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Associate Dean for Research Resources (R^2) at prf1@columbia.edu.