



Training Grant Application

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 21, 2024 by 11:59 pm PDT

Award Type: Mentored Research for Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

The mission of the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence (CoE) in Vector-Borne Diseases (PacVec) is to enhance the capacity of the southwestern United States to respond to threats from vector-borne diseases that affect human health. The mission will be achieved through a combination of research, training, and collaboration with public health and vector control agencies at all levels. The CoE is funded by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

Proposals are invited for training grants that are consistent with the CoE mission and should address themes relevant for public-health policy in the Pacific Southwest region. Proposals must involve applied research on approaches to prevent vector bites or suppress regionally important arthropod vectors and their associated human disease agents in the environment. Proposed research projects should address one or more of the research priorities identified by CDC (see [Appendix](#)). Our CDC funding for PacVec CoE requires projects to focus on evaluating or improving methods to reduce vector biting or reduce vector-borne diseases. Proposals that focus primarily on surveillance, modeling, or development of diagnostics or vaccines will not be funded. If you have questions about this, please email us at the contact below. Research on topics that are not already within the CoE research portfolio are particularly encouraged, so please feel free to inquire at the contact below about compatibility of proposals with existing PacVec research projects.

Training grants are intended to provide career development opportunities for individuals interested in public-health-relevant research on vector-borne diseases and to enable additional research and training opportunities that will contribute to development of the public-health workforce. Consistent with [CDC's commitment to build an inclusive STEM workforce](#), applications that involve trainees from under-represented populations are encouraged.

Preference will be given to projects that involve the following: (1) collaboration with public health or vector control agencies, (2) matching funds from collaborating agencies or the investigators' institution, and (3) a clearly defined career plan in public health that would be enabled by the proposed training.

Award Amount: Project budgets are limited to \$25,000 per application. Awards are intended to support VBD-related research that can be completed during a project period of one year between 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025. Carryforward of funds is not permitted – any funds remaining at the end of the project period will be returned to the CoE. There is a limit of one proposal per faculty mentor, per year.

Eligibility: Proposals are invited from investigators at academic institutions within the following states and territories: California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, and US-affiliated Pacific Islands of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau. All investigators with a faculty title that confers Principal Investigator status for extramural grants are eligible to apply, including faculty at 2-year colleges such as junior/community colleges, with the following exception. Faculty investigators who are receiving funding for applied research projects from PacVec CoE for the 2022-2027 funding period ARE NOT eligible for these training grants involving mentored research.

The funding must be used to support research of the graduate student or post-doctoral trainee, and if desired, funding requests may include support for multiple graduate students and/or undergraduate assistants engaged in the proposed research. Investigators who received a training grant in the previous year are eligible to apply for additional funding, so long as the proposed work represents new research that was not within the scope of the previous proposal. Proposals from previously funded investigators should also include a 1-page description of progress and key results from the previous award (see below). Recipients must comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies, which are available [online](#).

Budget Restrictions: Funding must be used exclusively to support research of graduate students, undergraduate assistants, or postdoctoral trainees; funds cannot be used for faculty or staff salaries or entertainment. Examples of allowable expenses include stipend support or tuition for a graduate student or post-doc, wages for undergraduate assistants, research supplies, animal care and use costs, related research expenses, or core facility charges. The budget



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must include travel funds or clearly identified matching funds that will enable the primary trainee(s) to attend and present their research at the annual meeting of the CoE to be held at one of our partner institutions within the Pacific Southwest region. No subcontracts allowed. Note that prior approval will be required if the designated trainee's status changes and there is a desire to redirect funding to a different trainee; to seek approval, the proposed new trainee(s) must submit a biosketch and career plan.

Indirect Costs: These small grants are supported through a combination of federal flow-through funds from CDC and matching funds from the University of California, Davis. If your institution requires budgeting for indirect costs, they must be included within the annual limit of \$25,000/year.

Reporting: A final report will be due 60 days after the end of the project period.

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

Download required application documents on our [website](#).

- 1. Cover Page:** Complete the PDF form and do not combine Cover Page with the other proposal documents.
- 2. Proposal Documents:** Submit the following, combined into a single PDF file. For all documents, fonts should be no smaller than 11 pt, with 0.5-inch margins.
 - **Results of Prior Training Grants (previously funded investigators only; 1-page limit):** Describe key findings and any other relevant progress or publications supported by your previous PacVec training grant. For investigators who have received more than one previous training grant from PacVec, please indicate only results of the most recent award.
 - **Project Narrative (2-page limit plus 1 page for references):** State your hypothesis, specific aims, significance of the research, and research approach. References may be included on 1 additional page.
 - **Budget and Budget Justification:** Itemized for wages, tuition, research supplies, animal costs, core charges, etc.
 - **Career Plan (1-page limit):** Describe how this training grant will enable/facilitate the trainee(s) to pursue a career in public health or public health-related research. This should include career plans for any undergraduates involved in the research if applicable.
 - **Biosketches:** Include biosketches following the formats provided for the PI and graduate/postdoctoral trainee(s) only.
 - **Letters of Support (optional):** If applicable, please provide 1-2 Letters of Support from your collaborators. This is not required, but encouraged for applications that involve collaborations outside the PI's research group.
- 3. Signature Page:** Signature from authorized institutional official acknowledges review of submitted proposal and agreement with the stipulations of the award outlined above. Proposals without authorized signatures will not be accepted.

Completed proposals should be submitted in PDF format with all required documents (3 separate files) in a single email to training@pacvec.us.

Questions may be sent to the same email address, or you may call CoE administrator Celia Chen at +1 530 754 1838.