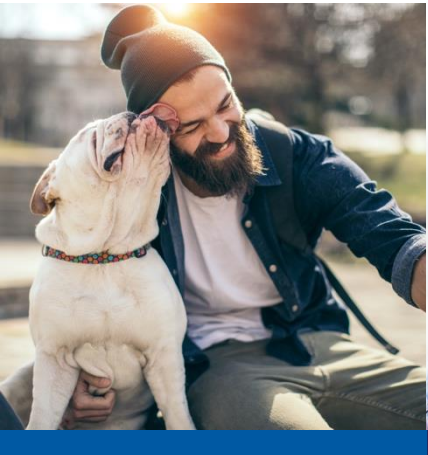


W O R K I N G   T O   A C H I E V E   H E A L T H   E Q U I T Y



# Minority Research Grant Program Application Assistance Webinar

June 28, 2023

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# Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the Minority Research Grant Program
- Grantee Presentation: Dr. Flora A.M. Ukoli, M.D., MPH., IBCLC – Meharry Medical College
- Notice of Funding Opportunity Information
- Eligibility Requirements
- Submit an Application
- Q&A

## A C C E S S I B I L I T Y

**Live Transcript** – In order to access this feature, go to the menu at the bottom of the screen and click on the “Live Transcript” icon. After you click this icon, click on “View Full Transcript,” which will allow closed captioning to appear on the bottom of your screen and the transcript will show on the right-hand side of your screen.

# CMS Office of Minority Health

**The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is the largest provider of health insurance in the United States, responsible for ensuring that more than 160 million individuals supported by CMS programs (Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplaces) are able to get the care and health coverage they need and deserve.

**The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH)** is one of eight offices of minority health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS OMH works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of all minority populations, racial and ethnic communities, people with limited English proficiency, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

# Overview of the Minority Research Grant Program



# About the Minority Research Grant Program

- Currently administered by CMS OMH, MRGP supports health equity researchers at minority-serving institutions (MSIs) who are exploring how CMS can better meet the health care needs of all those served by CMS including;
  - People from racial and ethnic minority populations
  - LGBTQ+ persons
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Persons with limited English proficiency
  - Persons who live in rural areas
  - Persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality

# Minority Research Grant Program



The CMS Office of Minority Health administers the Minority Research Grant Program (MRGP). CMS seeks to achieve health equity by improving quality and making care more person-centered, affordable, and accessible. The MRGP is particularly interested in scientific research on disparities affecting racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.



**GOAL 1.** Develop capacity at minority serving institutions to research health disparities and social determinants of health



**GOAL 2.** Understand the root cause of issues—processes, practices, behaviors, and burdens—that lead to health disparities and identify replicable interventions



**GOAL 3.** Strengthen CMS programs by disseminating best practices uncovered through funded research

## GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Health equity researchers at the following types of institutions are eligible to apply:

- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

To be eligible, investigators must propose research focused on testing solutions to disparities that impact CMS OMH's target populations that are racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, and rural populations. For more information on eligibility, visit: [go.cms.gov/minorityresearch](https://go.cms.gov/minorityresearch).

## TO APPLY

Applicants must use [Grants.gov](https://Grants.gov) to apply. Grantees are selected through an annual competition that values innovation, community collaboration, and scientific rigor.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, visit [go.cms.gov/minorityresearch](https://go.cms.gov/minorityresearch)

## CONTACT US

To contact us, email [HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov)

- For the last two decades, CMS has provided MRGP grantees with funds to further health equity research that:
  - Supports researchers pursuing topics that impact minority populations
  - Investigates the root causes of health disparities to increase understanding
  - Fosters the dissemination of grantee research within CMS programs and beyond to improve health equity

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### **Rigorous Selection**

Review committee made up of topical experts across various CMS products and programs.



### **Investigator Support**

Guide candidates to conduct their research independently and are competitive for other major grant support.



### **Evidence-Based**

Facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of effective programs and policies through research findings.

## **PROGRAM GOAL 1**

Develop capacity at MSIs to research health disparities and social determinants of health



### **VITAL HEALTH STATISTICS**

Identifying  
statistical trends and  
trails.



### **RESEARCH DISSEMINATION**

Dissemination of important  
research findings in  
working towards  
improving population  
health.



### **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT**

Academic career  
path advancement  
through the pursuit of  
high-quality publications  
and distinguished  
grant funding.

## **PROGRAM GOAL 2**

Understand the root causes of  
issues that lead to health disparities  
and ID replicable interventions



### **SYSTEMIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

CMS seeks to achieve health equity by improving quality and making care more person-centered, affordable, and accessible.



### **PATIENT-CENTERED CARE**

Incorporating culturally competent care for comforting and reassuring all patients at every step.



### **FOCUS ON RESULTS**

Linking findings to productive workflow and accelerating SDOH research, particularly amongst priority populations.

## **PROGRAM GOAL 3**

Strengthen CMS programs by disseminating best practices uncovered through funded research

# Grantee Characteristics and Outcomes 2005-2020

- **48** grantees awarded
- **14,900+** African American and Hispanic study participants since 2005
- Grantees addressed a variety of health issues, including chronic diseases such as **asthma**, **heart disease/hypertension** and **obesity**
- **38** grantees successful in disseminating their findings academically through peer reviewed journals and conferences
  - **60+** Published Manuscripts
  - **1** Book
  - **1** Website
  - **55+** Abstracts and Presentations
  - **Over 200** citations in subsequent research



# 2022 Grantees

- **The Board of Trustees at the University of Illinois** – *Addressing Disparities in Access to Transplant: The ESRD Patient Evaluation Clearinghouse (EPEC)*
- **Prairie View A&M University** – *Investigating the Combined Impact of Spatial Social Networks and Environmental Exposure on Minority Youths' Mental Health*
- **University of Hawaii** – *Improving Medication Use to Achieve Health Equity Among CMS Beneficiaries*

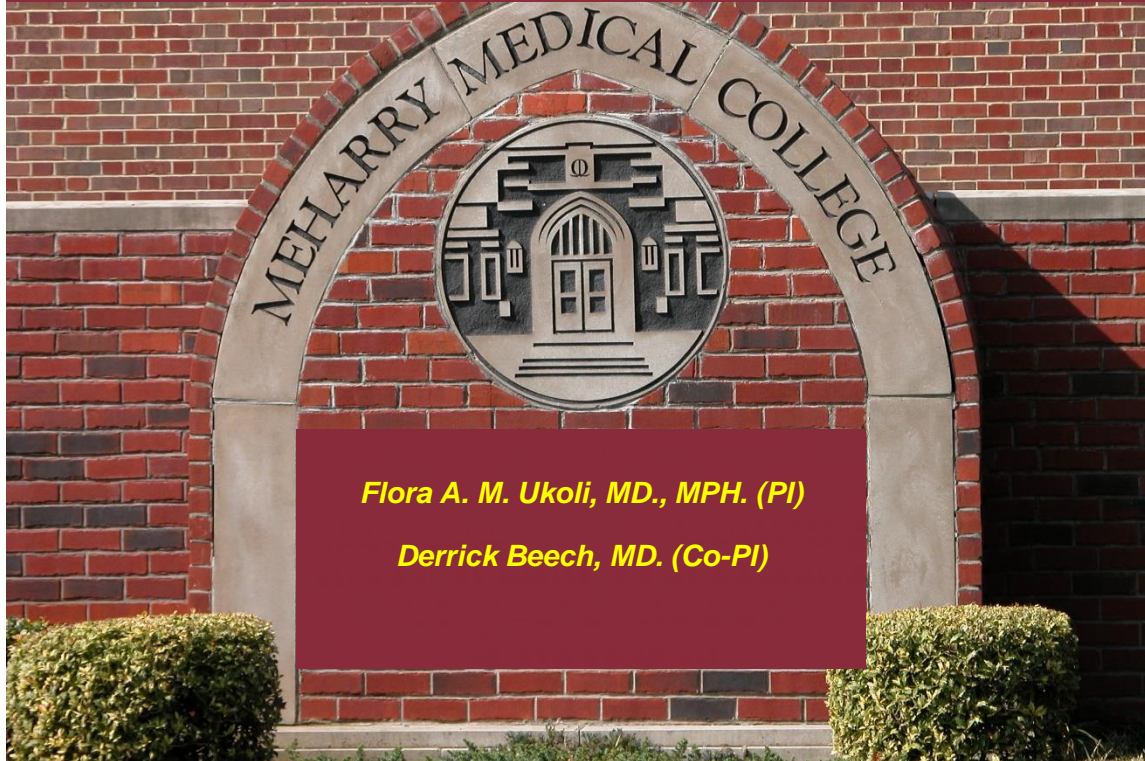


# Grantee Presentation

Featuring Dr. Flora A.M. Ukoli, M.D., MPH., IBCCLC  
Meharry Medical College

*A Prostate Cancer Screening Program for Low Income  
African Americans*

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
HBCU Research Project**



## Collaborative Partnership

### **Meharry Medical College (1876)**

Academic Health Institution.

- Medical/Dental/Health Programs'
- Health care services.
  - African Americans, Low-Income, Minorities, Disadvantaged.
- Elimination of health disparities



### **Mathew Walker Comprehensive Health Center (1968)**

- Medical/Dental/Diagnostic Facility.
- Zip code 37208; Census Tract 142.
- Uninsured/Underinsured.
- Majority: African-Americans.
- 20,000 patients in 2006.
  - >2,000 men 50 years and older.



# Prostate Cancer Statistics

- Most commonly diagnosed cancer.
- Second leading cancer deaths.
- African-Americans:
  - Disproportionate burden for prostate cancer.
  - Highest incidence rate in the world.
    - 23% higher than whites.
  - 2-fold higher mortality than whites.
    - Late presentation: Limited access to health care.
    - Biological basis:
      - Gene-Environment susceptibility or Virulent disease variant.



Austin JP. et al. 1990.  
Brawn PN. et al. 1993.  
Robbins AS. et al. 1998.  
Merrill RM, Lyon JL. 2000.  
Berger AD. et al. 2006.

Merrill RM, Brawley OW. 1997.  
Hankey BF. et al. 1999.  
Jemal A. et al. 2006.  
U.S. Cancer Statistics 2006.  
Jemal A. et al. 2007.

# Prostate Cancer Screening



- Lower screening rate:
  - Older African-Americans.
  - Low-income.
- Low knowledge about early detection & treatment outcome.
- Limited access & Competing priorities.
- Strategies to increase screening rates include:
  - Improve prostate cancer knowledge & attitudes.
    - Particularly among high-risk African-American.
    - Specially targeting:
      - Low-income.
      - Positive family history.

Barber KR. et al. 1998.  
Abbott RR. et al. 1998.  
Steele CB. et al. 2000.

Etzioni R. et al. 2002.  
Spencer BA. et al. 2006.  
Weinrich SP. 2006.



## Goal:

Improve prostate cancer screening rate among non-compliant low-income African-Americans

## Aim:

Improve knowledge and attitude of African-American men towards early detection of prostate cancer

## Objectives:

- 1) Evaluate prostate cancer knowledge and attitudes.
- 2) Identify prostate cancer screening barriers.
- 3) Develop culturally sensitive prostate cancer educational intervention for low-income African-Americans.
  - Focus Groups
  - Community Advisory Board
- 4) Evaluate the efficacy and impact of the intervention
  - Level of knowledge; Attitude; Prostate cancer screening behavior.



# PROGRAM PLAN

Phase 1

Health Issues Assessment  
3 Ten-Person Focus Groups

Summarize Discussions

Phase 2

Intervention Development  
Community Advisory Board

Phase 3

Intervention Implementation  
Community Navigators

Phase 4

Evaluation

Prostate Cancer Screening  
Knowledge  
Attitude  
Action  
Pre- & Post- Intervention

# Community Participation

## Three 10-Person Focus Group Discussions:

1. Men screened or diagnosed with prostate cancer:  $\geq 40$  years.
2. Family members
  - 4 Wives/Partners  $\geq 30$  years old
  - 3 Females 25 – 39 years old
  - 3 Males 25 – 39 years old
3. Men never been screened for prostate cancer:  $\geq 35$  years

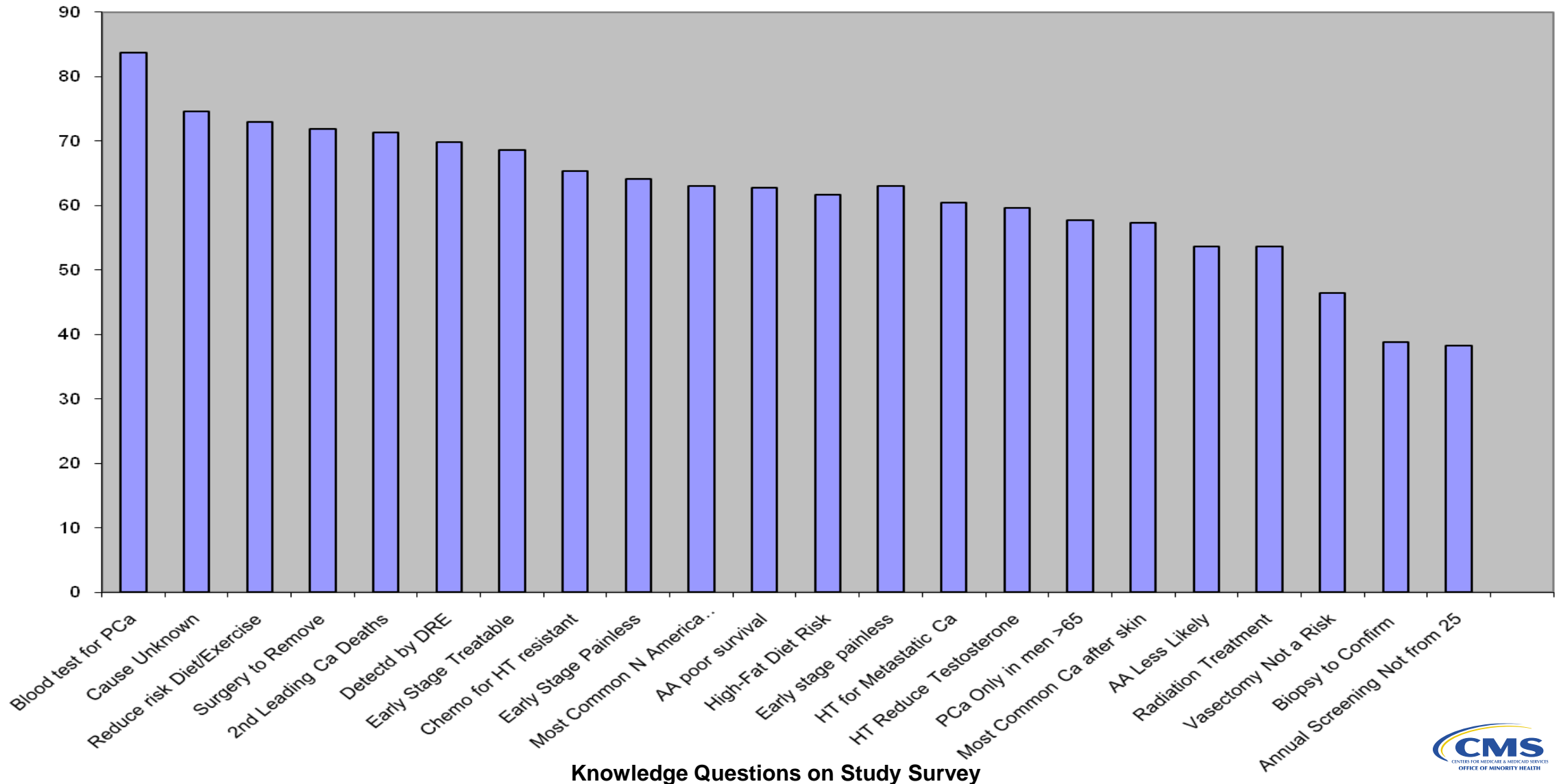
## Community Advisory Board:

1. 7 Lay African-Americans
  - 5 men
  - 2 women
2. 2 Community leaders
3. 1 MWCHC physician/health provider

# Participant Recruitment

- Recruitment in one year:
  - 366 completed survey booklet.
  - 148 completed follow-up survey.
    - 3-6 months after intervention.
- Research staff:
  - Community navigators: 2 active of 4 trained.
  - Research coordinator: 2 trained.
  - Student research assistants:
    - 1 Work-study medical student.
    - 4 Summer undergraduate interns (DOD support).

# Level of Knowledge about Prostate Cancer



# Prostate Cancer Screening Knowledge by Income



# Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening

- Cost
  - 44.8% due to lack of health insurance
  - 37.5% because of the cost
  - 19.4% because of transportation problems
- Cancer phobia
  - 33.1% because of fear of a diagnosis
  - 32.3% pain/discomfort
- Scheduling conflict
  - 23.8% difficulty scheduling appointment
  - 15.3% cannot get time off work
- Lack of Information
  - 23.4% general lack of information
  - 19.4% screening location

# Summary

- 252 men 40-81 years, mean  $50.9 \pm 7.8$ , 154(61.8%) had high school diploma or less.
- Rate of reporting good/very good health comparing high-low education men, 49.5% vs. 27.3%,  $p < 0.004$
- Health insurance coverage, 51.6% vs. 32.7%,  $p < 0.003$ .
- Knowledge about prostate cancer was poor in 21.4%, good for 59.3% and excellent for 19.4%.
  - Older men 65 and older were more knowledgeable.
- Major barriers to screening were lack of health insurance 44.8% or cost 37.5%.
  - Fear of cancer diagnosis was 33.1%.

# Lessons Learnt & Policy Implications

## Lessons Learnt:

- Using focus groups & a community advisory board is effective for developing an education intervention that is appropriate for the population.
- Community navigators are central to the success of this program but may require additional training to acknowledge the overriding importance of the research goals over service provision.
- A fee-for-service strategy was put in place to encourage community navigation in an active rather than passive style, and to emphasize the need to plan carefully for successful follow-up of participants.

## Policy Implications:

- Primary Care providers should continue to offer prostate cancer screening routinely to underinsured/uninsured men as a strategy for improving screening and early detection rates.

# Grant Submission Process

- Instructions: Concise and easy to follow.
  - Dates
  - Contact persons
- Submission: Best a few days before the deadline.
  - Opportunity provided for minor corrections.
- Mentor: Seeking guidance/ Collaborating with previous applicant can be useful.

# CMS Fund Support:

- Matching Requirements: 1% cost-sharing: Laptop/Office supplies.
- Faculty Salary: 3 Faculty & PC: (50.0%): ~50% of funds.
- Others: Equipment & Conference Travel: ~5% of funds.
- Health Center Subaward: ~8% of funds.

## 2 years project duration:

- Community Navigators: 630 hrs. X 2 @ \$10/hr. ~12% of funds.
- Participant Incentives: ~25% of funds.
  - Focus Group: 10 men x 3 sessions x \$45
  - CAB: 10 persons x 3 sessions x \$45
  - Participants: 520 x \$20 x 2 visits
- Doctor Visit & PSA blood test: ~Covered.

# NOFO Information

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# 2023 Minority Research Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity Now Available

- On May 11, 2023, we released the 2023 MRGP Notice of Funding Opportunity: **CMS-1W1-23-001**
- To apply, visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov)
- The deadline to submit applications is **Wednesday, July 12, 2023**.
- CMS can award three grants of up to \$333,000

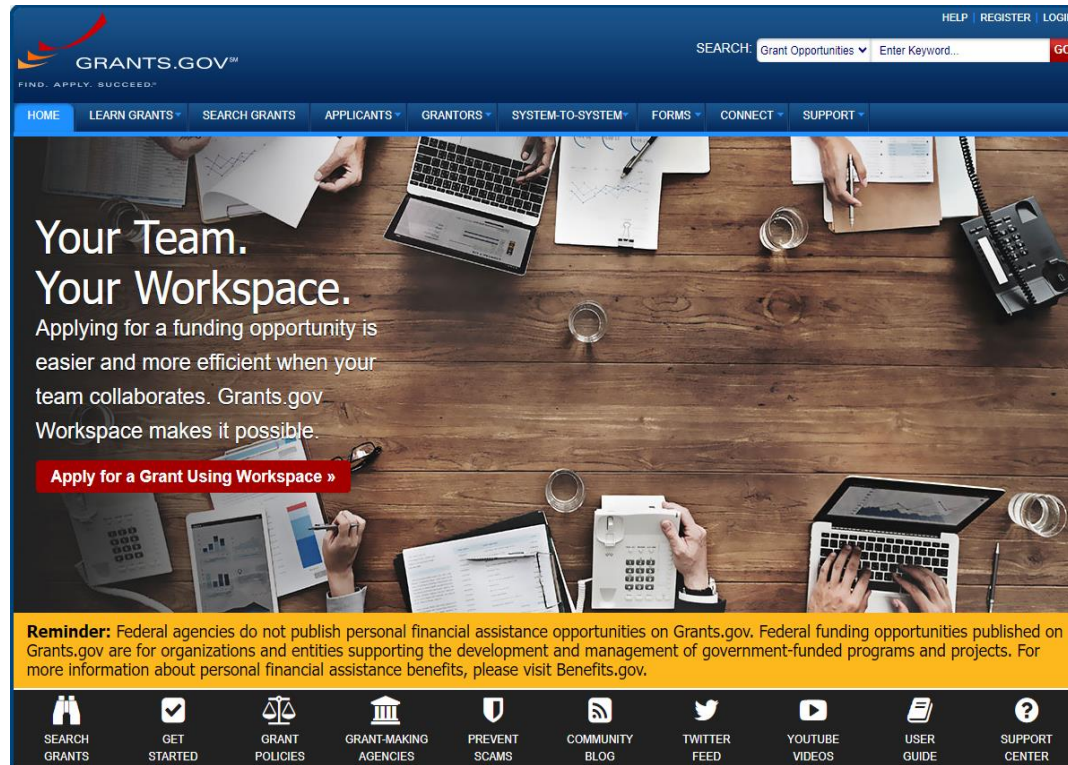
# Eligibility Requirements

# Eligibility Requirements

- Grantees are selected through a competition that values innovation, community collaboration, and scientific rigor
- To be eligible, researchers from MSIs should focus on developing suitable interventions for health disparities impacting minority populations
- Health equity researchers with suitable projects from four MSI types may apply:
  - Historically Black Colleges and Universities
  - Hispanic-Serving Institutions
  - Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions
  - Tribal Colleges and Universities
  - Newly eligible in 2023:
    - Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)
    - Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs)
    - Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHSIs)
- For more information on eligibility, visit [go.cms.gov/minorityresearch](https://go.cms.gov/minorityresearch)

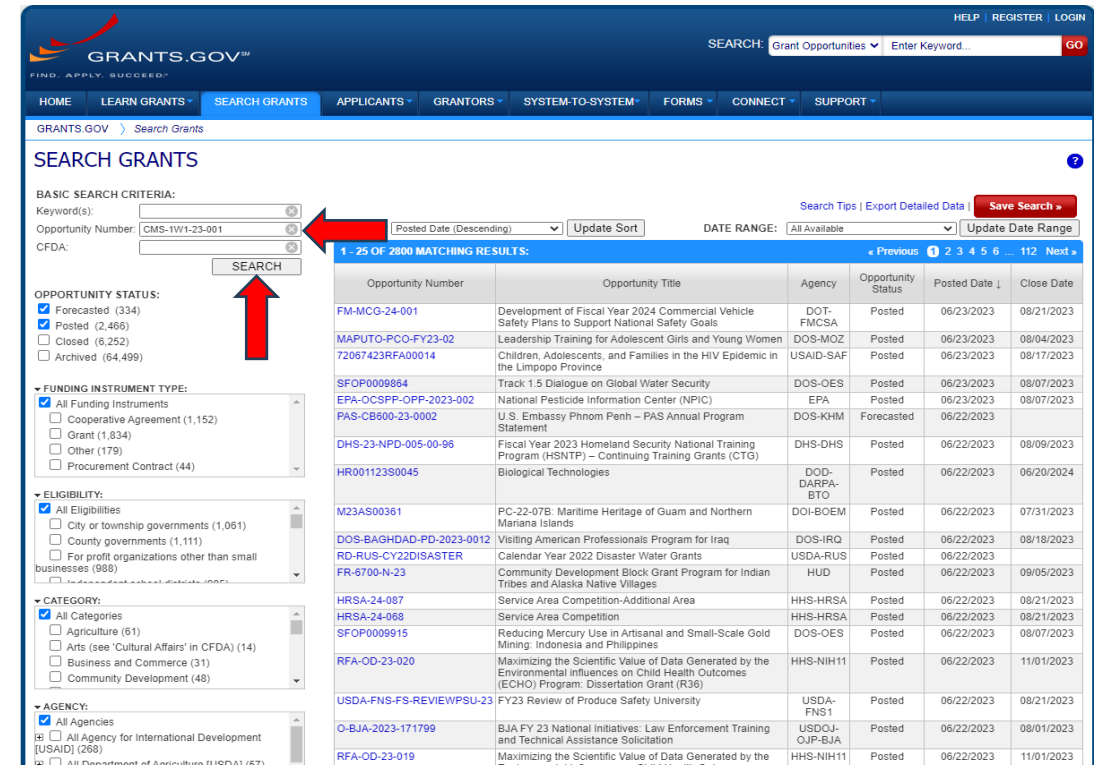
# Submit an Application

# Step One



Visit grants.gov and click 'Search Grants'

# Step Two



Type the MRGP grant number **CMS-1W1-23-001** in the 'Opportunity Number' box and click 'Search'

## Step Three

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### SEARCH GRANTS

BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:

Keyword(s):

Opportunity Number: CMS-1W1-23-001

CFDA:

SEARCH

OPPORTUNITY STATUS:

☒ Forecasted (0)

☒ Posted (1)

☐ Closed (0)

☐ Archived (0)

▼ FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE:

☒ All Funding Instruments

☐ Grant (1)

▼ ELIGIBILITY:

☒ All Eligibilities

☐ Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification) (1)

☐ Private institutions of higher education (1)

☐ Public and State controlled institutions of higher education (1)

▼ CATEGORY:

☒ All Categories

☐ Health (1)

▼ AGENCY:

☒ All Agencies

☐ All Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] (1)

SORT BY: Posted Date (Descending) ▾ Update Sort

DATE RANGE: All Available ▾ Update Date Range

1 - 1 OF 1 MATCHING RESULTS:

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Opportunity Status	Posted Date	Close Date
CMS-1W1-23-001	Minority Research Grant Program (MRGP)	HHS-CMS	Posted	05/11/2023	07/12/2023

Click on the grant number  
**CMS-1W1-23-001**

## Step Four

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### VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

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CMS-1W1-23-001  
Minority Research Grant Program (MRGP)  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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SYNOPSIS | **VERSION HISTORY** | RELATED DOCUMENTS | PACKAGE

Print Synopsis Details ?

General Information

Document Type: Grants Notice

Funding Opportunity Number: CMS-1W1-23-001

Funding Opportunity Title: Minority Research Grant Program (MRGP)

Opportunity Category: Discretionary

Opportunity Category Explanation:

Funding Instrument Type: Grant

Category of Funding Activity: Health

Category Explanation:

Expected Number of Awards: 3

CFDA Number(s): 93.779 -- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Research, Demonstrations and Evaluations

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes

Version: Synopsis 1

Posted Date: May 11, 2023

Last Updated Date: May 11, 2023

Original Closing Date for Applications: Jul 12, 2023

Current Closing Date for Applications: Jul 12, 2023

Archive Date: Aug 11, 2023

Estimated Total Program Funding:

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Award Floor: \$0

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants: Private institutions of higher education  
Public and State controlled institutions of higher education  
Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must: 1. Be a researcher at a Minority Serving Institution. For more detailed information see https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edite-minorityinst.html. Minority Serving Institutions are: • a part B institution (a historically Black college or university) (§322 of the HEA, 20 U.S.C. §1061); • a Hispanic-serving institution (§502 of the HEA, 20 U.S.C. §1101a); • a Tribal College or University (§316 of the HEA, 20 U.S.C. §1059c); • an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (§317(b) of the HEA, 20 U.S.C. §1059d(b)); • a Predominantly Black

Click 'Apply'

# Q&A

# Contact

**Grantee Name:** Dr. Flora A.M. Ukoli, M.D., MPH., IBCLC

**Title:** Professor of Community Medicine - Department of Surgery

**University:** Meharry Medical College

**Email address:** [fukoli@mmc.edu](mailto:fukoli@mmc.edu)

# Connect with CMS OMH

## Contact Us

[OMHGrants@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:OMHGrants@cms.hhs.gov)

<https://go.cms.gov/minorityresearch>