

## **Request for Application: Eastern Cape Health Research and Innovation**

The South African Medical Research Council under the Grants Innovation and Product Development Unit is seeking to fund projects that will focus on interventions for Maternal, Child and Women's Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), Mental Health, Sexual Reproductive Health Violence against women and children. The impact of COVID-19 on the above would also be of interest. This could be through health systems research or digital based research.

**Request for Applications: Eastern Cape Health Research and Innovation -SAMRC-RFA-SHIP 04 May 2020**

**Issue date:** 31 July 2020

**Closing date:** 11 September 2020 - 23:59 (SA time)

SHIP was established in 2013 and has funded a portfolio of more than 50 projects, selected primarily through open, competitive requests for applications (RFAs) in specific priority areas. The SAMRC is focused in building high quality research, innovation and capacity development in the historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa and Historically disadvantaged Institutions in the country to help improve the lives of ordinary South Africans.

As a first into this direction, the SAMRC piloted an inaugural Research Symposium "Advancing Research in the Eastern Cape Province" in East London on 29-30 August 2019 at the East London International Convention Centre. All four Eastern Cape universities were well represented. The objectives of the symposium were to showcase health research in the Eastern Cape, identify health priorities and identify research gaps in the Eastern Cape, and to foster research collaboration, partnerships and networks with the Eastern Cape universities.

The SAMRC is now seeking to fund projects that will focus on interventions for Maternal, Child and Women's Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), Mental Health, Sexual Reproductive Health Violence against women and children. The impact of COVID-19 on the above would also be of interest. This could be through health systems research or digital based research. This unique RFA is strictly focused on the Eastern Cape. Therefore, applicants must be from one of the four main universities in the Eastern Cape Province and the research must focus on the Eastern Cape Province.

The SAMRC SHIP program, is providing seed funding worth R4 million for this RFA to support health research at the four main public research institutions located the Eastern Cape, namely the University of Fort Hare (UFH), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Rhodes University (RU) and Nelson Mandela University (NMU). The intent of this RFA is to support collaborative research that will advance research in the selected priority areas towards new products or solutions to address the health burdens of the Eastern Cape Province, which can be scaled into other provinces. We are seeking to make competitive awards for projects that run for two years with a total budget between R 200 000 to R 500 000.

The ultimate focus of the call is to understand why the Eastern Cape Province has such high numbers when it comes to Health – related issues and to find possible solutions.

This call is designed to catalyse initiatives to address Health issues in the Eastern Cape Province and to build research culture in the Eastern Cape Province.

**Eligibility:** For support under this call, applicants must be registered in one of the Eastern Cape's Universities.

Duration: Projects must start before 04 January 2021. Projects may be up to two years in length and so must be completed by the end of January 2023.

Funding: Through this initiative, we are looking to fund over ten projects in the Eastern Cape Province for a period of two years.

A maximum budget of R 500 000 is allowed per award (inclusive of all costs), over a period of two years.

The grants will cover direct costs including:

- Travel within SA to establish research networks
- Partnership activities; e.g. exchange programs (to promote collaboration) and workshops
- Consumables
- Visits/access to facilities

The grants will not cover:

- Salary costs
- Indirect and estate costs

SAMRC is managing this initiative, and so SAMRC will be the awarding body. SAMRC will disburse funds to the host institution of the successful proposals and in turn the host institution will transfer the appropriate proportion of funds to the Co PI.

Assessment Criteria Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstration of the need
- Scientific merit of the proposal
- Added value to applicants' ongoing research programme(s)
- Potential to deliver longer-term benefit and impact.
- The uniqueness of the opportunity and expertise of the partners
- The opportunities for development of capacity and expertise

## Timeline

### Stages

### Date/period

**Publication of call:**

31 July 2020

**Deadline for submitting applications:**

11 September 2020

**Review completion and feedback:**

September - November 2020

**Award and contracting:**

December 2020