



**Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity  
Health Equity Research Scholars Program  
Request for Letters of Intent**

**October 2024**

**Application Dates and Deadlines:**

This is a two-step application process.

- LOIs are due by January 6, 2025
  - Apply at this link:  
<https://redcap.rush.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=XFYR37L8JP87KJ3J>
- Full proposals will be solicited by invitation only by February 1, 2025 and due April 30, 2025

The Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity is requesting applications for the RBIHE Health Equity Research Scholars Program to support the expansion of researchers conducting innovative community-partnered health equity research addressing health across the lifespan. The Scholars Program supports RUSH faculty members to develop a program of research that will lead to the identification of evidence-based approaches to improve health equity. Research topics within the following areas are of particular interest:

- Development of interventions to improve health equity
- Implementation of interventions to improve health equity
- Examination of the influence of environment, social determinants, and other underlying mechanisms that lead to differences in health outcomes, in order to inform future intervention and program development

If needed, the Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity will facilitate linking Scholars with community partners to ensure research is informed by members of the research target population.

**Generalized Criteria:**

- Faculty position at RUSH; rank of assistant professor or higher preferred
- Research that will result in at least one submission for external grant funding by the end of the award period; NIH funding preferred
- Research that focuses on one or more health disparity populations, defined as racial/ethnic minorities, people with lower socio-economic status, underserved rural communities, sexual and gender minority populations, and people with disabilities in the United States.
- A plan for engaging community partners; community partners include members of the research target population and must include health disparity populations

**Funding Amounts**

- Scholar
  - Early Career Scholar: up to 0.5 FTE, with flexibility of allocation up to a 24-

- month funding period
  - Mid-Career Scholar: up to 0.3 FTE, with flexibility of allocation up to a 12-month funding period
- Mentor: up to 0.05 FTE (salary coverage or stipend based on the NIH salary cap)
- Up to \$10,000 for duration of Scholar program to cover the costs of community partner collaboration time, pilot data collection and other research-related costs
  - Rules apply
- Scholars are encouraged to apply for other sources of funding to support research

### Letter of Intent Requirements

Please submit your letter of intent (LOI) by filling out this REDCap survey

<https://redcap.rush.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=XFYR37L8JP87KJ3J>. Your LOI should be a single PDF file that includes the following materials:

- A cover page, containing the following:
  - Grant proposal title
  - Name of applicant
  - Name of mentor
  - Name of community partner (if applicable)
- NIH biosketch (five pages maximum) of applicant
- Project abstract in layperson's terms (30 lines)
- Specific aims (1 page)

Notification of invitation to submit a Full Proposal will occur on **February 1, 2025**.

Full proposals, including a letter from your chairperson, will be due on **April 30, 2025**.

### Proposed Timeline

LOI due:	January 6, 2025
Full proposal invitation:	February 1, 2025
Full proposal due:	April 30, 2025
Funding Period:	12 months or 24 months, earliest start date October 1, 2025

Questions about the RFA or submission process should be emailed to [Oriana Fleming](#), Program Coordinator, Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity.