Fact Sheet for Community Partners Interested in Partnering with UNM on Funding Opportunities

General Things to Think About:

- It is easier to find someone from UNM HSC to participate with you if we know what kinds of projects you are interested in (for example, obesity, cancer, diabetes, etc.) so we can refer you to an expert in those topics. Communicate your specific needs to us as it is easier to find someone if we know specifics, i.e. Obesity in Children 4 – 8 yo, rather than a general topic, i.e. health.

- Please keep in mind that UNM faculty may not understand what your community could bring to the partnership and it would be advantageous to create a "fact sheet" that would help faculty to see how a partnership would be mutually beneficial.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How Does A Community Partner with UNM?

Partnering with UNM means both parties being able to articulate what they bring to the partnership and how each party can contribute and benefit. What questions do you have that require a partnership? What questions do we have that require testing in the community? This is not a generic approach; research requires a very specific approach. It would be very helpful if you could articulate what your interests are and what questions you have that require testing through research.

2. What are the requirements for research grants?

All research grants require IRB (Internal Review Board) approval. The PI (Principal Investigator) is usually the scientist with the Ph.D. or MD. The community would most often be a sub-contractor to the University. Both parties should contribute substantively to the application and it should be clear what each party's role is. The relationship should be long term and should have evidence of developing over time. Preliminary data should be presented that shows the strengths of the relationship. It is unlikely that any sizable grants would be awarded to a new partnership. The community must have specific capacity that is complementary to the capacity of the University researcher(s). Often the community can be seen as a laboratory for the rigorous testing of new ideas or the dissemination of proven (efficacious) programs. For example, the CATCH physical activity program was shown to be efficacious in a rigorous randomized control trial and then was disseminated to multiple communities where its effectiveness was assessed. This is an example of a very good university-community relationship. It is unlikely that brand new, untested ideas, would start in a community under anything but very rigorous conditions (which are admittedly difficult to do in communities). This is what is meant about the community being a "laboratory". The experience of UNM is that it's very difficult to conduct randomized control trials in communities, because of the high cost and low control. It is likely that an application describing the dissemination of already proven programs would be more appropriate for a collaboration and better received by the funding agencies. That

would mean that the community might want to read up on the literature and see what efficacious (already proven) programs you would like to test in your community to see if they are effective in addressing a particular problem that you have in your community, and then pursue a university expert to collaborate with you on this particular opportunity.

3. What types of NIH (National Institutes of Health) grants are there?

RO3, R21, R01 grants are types of NIH grants. There are many others (for example, R34, R25). RO3 are very small (max $50K per year for 2 years) and are usually seen as opportunities to collect preliminary data. R21s are larger "exploratory" grants and although bigger (max $275K over two years), their purpose still is to collect preliminary data or to explore conceptual models. R01s can be up to $500K per year and they are usually intervention grants whose ideas and methods have been tested in the R03 and R21 mechanisms. They require extensive preliminary data and are likely not to be funded the first or second time they are submitted because they are very complicated and reviewers find all sorts of problems with them (because it's difficult for the investigator to think of everything the first time around). They usually take months and months to write well. For this reason there are standard "due dates" (October 1, February 1, June 1) so if the grant application is not ready to submit you can submit it at the next due date.

There are two types of grants: investigator initiated and those written in response to a program announcement. In general, program announcement grants are easier to get (this is relative) because there are specific funds set aside for them and the study sections that review them are formed to review the specific applications that are sent in response to the announcement. Program announcements often have specific due dates but some of them have the standard ones. However, these days even these grants are difficult to obtain.

Investigator initiated grants are those submitted not in response to any particular announcement. These grants constitute the largest component of NIH funding but they are now only funding down to the 9th percentile, which is a score about 120 or below. This is a nearly perfect score, therefore quite challenging to get on the first or even second time around.

CDC (Center for Disease Control) is now developing their own extramural research program and each CDC Center will be coming out with program announcements in the near future. This is probably a more likely avenue for community campus partnership grants. They have the same mechanisms as described above (R03, R21, R01) and they will also be difficult to get funded but their funding percentiles are likely to be higher. These announcements are likely to come out in the February - April time frame this year (2006/07).

Private Foundation and Corporation Grants

Private foundations and corporations may also be a source for grants. These organizations have specific interests in different types of research and community outreach programs and may support university/ community collaborations for such things as community-based participatory research projects. UNM researchers can work with development professionals at the university to explore private funding opportunities for specific research programs. Depending upon the funder, grants may range from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. While still highly competitive, the private grant application process is usually less structured than that for government grants and grant awards can provide more flexibility to meet researcher and community needs.

4. What are UNM HSC's research priorities?

UNM HSC has articulated 5 "signature" research priorities: Cancer; Environmental Health; Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases; Immunology and Infectious Diseases; and Brain and Behavior (stroke). This doesn't mean that other areas aren't being studied, but this is where UNM feels that the burden of health in New Mexico is greatest and where we can make the biggest impact. Each of these programs has a leader and we can direct you to these leaders. You can also check out the UNM HSC web site to read about these signature programs and contact them directly at: (http://hsc.unm.edu/som/bmb/Signature%20Research%20Prgms/indexSignaturePrgm.shtml)

5. How we can institutionalize a relationship (between the community and UNM) so that those RFPs (Request for Proposal) which the community is interested in pursuing can be addressed quickly and successfully?

We believe the most likely and most productive approach is to develop collaborative relationships with a few individual UNM researchers or UNM groups of researchers who are studying what a given community is interested in addressing in their community. For example, if you are interested in Environmental Health, we would send you to specific people. If you are interested in Brain and Behavior, we would send you to a different group of people. There is no way that an institutional relationship, per se, is going to work for grants, because we are talking about research and research requires specific expertise. As mentioned above, the community is likely to be a laboratory to test research ideas. The ideas should emerge from the partnership. Also, we want to point out that the collaboration is important, and RFPs that the community is interested in may not be those that the faculty are interested in, so it is not always going to be possible to find faculty to help with every RFP (as it would not be possible to find a community resource to match every faculty member's interests).

6. What if the community is only interested in getting help from UNM for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of a particular intervention?

There are faculty at UNM who have evaluation expertise and who may elect to work with communities to perform this "service." However, it should be

noted that this is not always an optimal situation for the faculty member because they may not be fully invested in the topic or have specific expertise that would be required to develop new instruments. Faculty traditionally do not get as much "credit" for this type of work because it often does not result in publishable data, certainly not for many years, and because they are not the principal investigators; two important criteria for promotion in a university setting.

Other Important Info:

NIH has moved to electronic submission which requires an entirely different infrastructure and if communities are interested in federal funding they will have to have invest significantly in the development of expertise in NIH submission and be able to turn around the subcontract components in electronic format. Until communities develop this expertise, potential collaboration will be hampered because this is something UNM HSC cannot do for communities (UNM can train communities but cannot do the submission for them).