Advancing Cancer Control Equity Research Through Transformative Solutions (RFA Concept)

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On Behalf of Concept Sponsors:
Division of Cancer Control and Population Science
Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities
Cancer Disparities and Health Equity in Cancer Control

- Despite advances in cancer research, disparities persist.

- Driven in part by complex social, economic, and environmental structures, known as the social determinants of health (SDOH).

- Shift to cancer control equity requires a focus on root causes, in partnership with communities most affected by these inequities.
Cancer Control Equity Research Gaps

- Lack of interventions whose scope includes a focus on SDOH to address structural barriers

- Insufficient evidence for SDOH interventions that modify the mechanisms at **multiple levels** *(operating at two or more levels)*

- Limited investment in **community engaged research and practice** *(methods, measures, and outcomes)*

- Need better integration of **capacity building** among diverse scholars, stakeholders, and community partners that incorporate lived experiences into proposed interventions
Integrating Health Disparities Research and Practice to Advance Cancer Control Equity

**Cancer control equity:** Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, receive quality care, and survive cancer with optimal quality of life.

**Social Determinants of Health:** Conditions in the environment which people are born, grow, live, learn, work, play, and age and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of daily life.
Proposed: Advancing Cancer Control Equity Research Through Transformative Solutions

Mechanisms: U19 (up to 4 Centers) and U24 (1 Coordinating Center)

Purpose: Advance cancer control equity research by using community engagement to:

1. Develop interventions that target the multilevel pathways by which social determinants of health impact adverse cancer outcomes

2. Develop measures, evaluate, and assess community-level SDOH, community engagement and cancer control equity process and outcomes

3. Build capacity among diverse scholars and community partners to implement interventions that incorporate the lived experiences of those who face cancer inequities
Research Centers: U19 Design Overview (Structure)

- **Administrative Core**
  - Research Core
  - Methods, Measures, and Data Core
  - Capacity Building Core

- SDOH Multilevel Intervention Trial
- Pilot Projects
Research Centers: U19 Design Overview (Structure)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Administrative Core

Research Core

Methods, Measures, and Data Core

Capacity Building Core

SDOH Multilevel Intervention Trial

Pilot Projects
### Social Determinants of Health Interventions to Improve Cancer Control Equity

#### Community Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Determinants of Health</th>
<th>Multilevel Interventions</th>
<th>Cancer Control Equity Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Cancer prevention – smoking, diet, physical activity, other risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Instability</td>
<td>Organizational</td>
<td>Cancer Screening and Follow-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation barriers</td>
<td>Families, Households</td>
<td>Treatment completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Support, Programs, and Policies</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural Racism</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U24 Coordinating Center

**Purpose:** Facilitate coordination and collaboration in the synthesis of cancer control equity research products, programs, and practice

- Advance synthesis of measurement in SDOH and health equity processes and outcomes
- Disseminate and enhance accessibility of culturally appropriate materials developed in the Centers
- Repository of evidence-based community engagement strategies
- Advance and support equitable and accessible data sharing
- Network-wide assessment of capacity building efforts and the impact of partnerships on sustainability
- Coordinating collaboration with other SDOH-relevant research Initiatives
Proposed U19 and U24 Budget FY24 - FY28

**U19 Centers**
- 4 Centers
- Total Cost $9.7M/year for 5yrs
- Total Investment: $48.5 M

**U24 Center**
- 1 Center
- Total Cost $825K/year for 5yrs
- Total Investment: $4.1 M
Evaluation Criteria

- **Short term (years 1-2)**
  - Delivery of capacity building activities and reach to underserved populations
  - Engagement with Coordinating Center

- **Long term (years 3-5)**
  - Impact of social determinants of health interventions on cancer control inequalities
  - Measurable reduction in community-level disparities
  - Evidence of community impact of engagement on outcomes
  - Collaboration and coordination for network wide impact on engagement
  - Interventions, tools, and approaches that are ready for scale up
Clarifications in Response to BSA Subcommittee Feedback (Drs. Brawley, Coronado, and Basen-Engquist)

- **Cross-Center Collaboration**: promote research collaborations across Equity Centers (e.g., measurement, SDOH mechanisms, multilevel interventions)

- **Coordinating Center**: facilitate connections with other NCI and NIH funding SDOH and equity-focused initiatives; synthesize research findings, data elements, dissemination and delivery of training curricula/toolkits

- **Capacity Building and Training**: provide guidance to Centers on opportunities to support scholars and community partners including existing training mechanisms