JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Hopkins Population Center

HPC Call for Lightning Pilot Applications to Population-Based Studies of COVID-19

3/20/2020

The Hopkins Population Center (HPC) is issuing **a special call** for pilot projects on demographic, social science, and healthcare access research on the COVID-19 pandemic. We aim to fund up to **five** small proposals in the $5,000 to $10,000 range.

The **goal** of this call is to capitalize on HPC's expertise, e.g. to provide population heterogeneity of the pandemic trends by spatial patterns of demographics (beyond age structure), SES, and locational inequality of healthcare to inform policy in the effort to control the pandemic and alleviate its consequences for population wellbeing. This call by HPC is particularly significant in the context that NIH and CDC urgent funding focuses on biomedical mechanisms of the pandemic.

We encourage every HPC Associate to apply. We would especially like to support population-based research led by **junior-senior** or **multidisciplinary** teams. Research using combined pandemic data for small areas (e.g., the real-time pandemic data of Hopkins' Center for Systems Science and Engineering) and demographic, social science and health data for small areas from the US Census Bureau and other credible sources, as well as social media data on contagion and migration is particularly encouraged.

The HPC is in the process of building and providing data infrastructure service, including US county level database of daily pandemic data in real time and merging with the most recent demographic and social science variables (details will be sent out within a week and updates will be available weekly). Awardees will have access to this data service as well as consultations for merging other data.

Possible topics include but not limited to:

- Describing the population heterogeneity of pandemic trends by demographic, healthcare access and SES distributions, e.g. in small areas.
- Modeling and projecting these heterogenous trends into the next few months for several potential model parameters provided by reputable epidemic studies.
- Estimating and measuring morbidity and mortality by demographics, SES, healthcare distribution, and geography.
- Documenting the social and economic consequences of the pandemic for families, children, older, marginalized populations by geography.

Please submit a **one-page Letter of Intent (LOI)** that includes a brief description of the research topic, objectives, data sources, methods, and proposed or desired collaborators. Projects should be able to begin as soon as April 1, 2020 and will need to be completed as soon as possible or before August 31, 2020. Because timely results will have real-world impacts, those projects with the completion before June 30, 2020 will receive supplementary support from HPC to further their projects. **LOI will be accepted from today, reviewed starting from March 27** on a rolling basis until all five slots are filled. If your LOI is accepted, you will be asked to submit a 2-page proposal with more details on the approach and a brief budget and budget justification. Please email LOI to Lingxin Hao hao@jhu.edu, Li Liu lliu26@jhu.edu and Emily Agree Emily.Agree@jhu.edu.