



## Tar Heel Bus Tour Partnership Program 2023

*Supporting Collaborative Research to Address State and Local Issues*

### Request for Proposals

*Application deadline: 5:00 pm, April 14, 2023*

The North Carolina Collaboratory, headquartered at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), is requesting proposals to support research partnerships arising from the 2019 and 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tours.

#### Key Information

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- **Eligible applicants:** Two or more passengers of the 2019 or 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tours working together as a team.
- **Total funding available for program:** \$50,000 (reverting State funds).
- **Award budgets:** Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in direct costs.
- **Award performance period:** Proposals must begin no earlier than July 1, 2023, and end no later than June 30, 2024. Due to the reverting nature of these funds, no-cost extensions will *not* be permitted.
- **Funding requirements:** All funds distributed via this program must be used in accordance with State regulations found in Title 09, Subchapter 03M of the North Carolina Administrative Code.
- **Spending restrictions:** In addition to standard State law restrictions, no indirect (F&A) costs are permitted, as per Article 31A of North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) Chapter 116-255 Subsection (c)(2).
- **Matching funds requirement:** None.

*All applicants should read these instructions thoroughly before preparing an application. Questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) are welcome and may be sent to [collaboratory@unc.edu](mailto:collaboratory@unc.edu).*

## Important Dates

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- **Application deadline:** 5:00pm on April 14, 2023
- **Estimated award announcements:** May 2023
- **Earliest project start date:** July 1, 2023
- **Latest project end date:** June 30, 2024

## Program Purpose

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Established in the summer of 2016 by the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Collaboratory facilitates the dissemination of expertise within the UNC System and other institutions of higher education for practical use by State and local governments and the communities they serve.

The purpose of this program is to foster collaborative research stemming from ideas or conversations that occurred as a result of the 2019 and 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tours. **Research proposals should describe how funds will be used to build a research partnership arising from the Tar Heel Bus Tour that has the potential to address an issue or need that is currently affecting North Carolina, and thereby benefit people in the State.** Research proposals describing mutually beneficial engagement with non-academic stakeholders who could benefit from outcomes of the research partnership are preferred but not required.

## Funding Guidelines

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All funds distributed via this program constitute State appropriations from the North Carolina General Assembly and must be used in accordance with North Carolina State law. **Applicants may request a maximum of \$50,000 in direct costs only.**

The total amount available for grants in this program is \$50,000. All budgets should reflect the actual needs of the proposed project and scope of work. No matching costs are required.

### **Allowable budget requests:**

- Salary and fringe/benefit costs for university personnel who are directly contributing to project activities (e.g. principal investigators, project managers, research staff, and students)
- Consultants (e.g. community/government partners)
- Travel expenses (e.g. mileage, airfare, accommodation, per diem)
- Equipment
- Materials and supplies
- Contracted services
- Publication fees
- Student tuition
- IRB/IACUC costs

### **Budget restrictions:**

- Institutional overhead/indirect costs (F&A) are not permitted, as set forth in North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 116-255(c)(2).
- Food costs are not permitted, unless associated with travel as per diem.

## Eligibility

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### Applicants

**The principal investigator (PI) and at least one co-investigator must have been passengers of the 2019 or 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tour.** Other project team members who did not participate in a Tar Heel Bus Tour may be included to support the project activities (e.g. graduate students, postdocs, research technicians).

## Application Instructions

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Applicants must complete the **proposal template** available for download via the Collaboratory's webpage for this funding opportunity. Due to the breadth of potential topics covered by this RFP, applicants should assume reviewers are scientifically and technically literate but not subject matter experts.

**Important notice for UNC-Chapel Hill applicants:** An IPF submission in RAMSeS is not required for this RFP because the Collaboratory is headquartered at UNC-Chapel Hill, and these funds therefore constitute an internal award. Any UNC-Chapel Hill applicants that are selected for funding will receive guidance on RAMSeS procedures from the Collaboratory during the post-award phase.

All project activities must be conducted in accordance with established federal guidelines and policies for research involving animal and human subjects. IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required at the time of submission, but the application should provide relevant IRB and/or IACUC details as requested in the proposal template.

## Submission Instructions

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**The deadline for submissions is 5:00pm on April 14, 2023.** Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. After completing the proposal template, application materials should be combined into a single PDF and submitted via the Collaboratory's application portal, which can be accessed here: <https://projects.collaboratory.unc.edu/applications/>

If applicants do not receive a submission confirmation email from the Collaboratory within two weeks, please contact [collaboratory@unc.edu](mailto:collaboratory@unc.edu).

Submission of an application to this RFP indicates an acceptance of all the above requirements for the proposed project. Applicant institutions are responsible for a) ensuring all proposals submitted to the Collaboratory have been reviewed and approved by appropriate institutional personnel and b) overseeing compliance for all awarded projects.

## Review Criteria

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The Collaboratory seeks to ensure the highest principles of academic research rigor and scientific inquiry are followed in all projects. Accordingly, reviewers will assess proposals for compliance with the following principles:

1. The development of significant questions that can be investigated empirically.
2. Linkage of research to relevant theory.

3. The use of methods that directly address the question(s) of interest.
4. A coherent and explicit chain of logic and reasoning.
5. A standard of generalizability with existing research and research contexts.
6. Publication of research to encourage professional critique.

Specific to this RFP, reviewers will also evaluate all proposals according to the following criteria:

- Does the application describe a research partnership that arose from the 2019 or 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tour?
- Is there a clear description of how this research partnership has the potential to address an issue/need that is currently affecting North Carolina?
- Does the proposal describe how the award will be leveraged to help sustain the research partnership after the award performance period?
- Is the project team qualified to conduct the proposed activities?
- Is the budget reasonable for the proposed activities and timeline?
- Is the plan for performing the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on sound rationale?
- If this proposal describes *engagement with non-academic stakeholders*:
  - Is a mutually beneficial relationship between academic and non-academic partners clearly described?
  - Have letters of support from these stakeholders been included in the application?

## Award Process

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The Collaboratory anticipates notifying applicants of award decisions in **May 2023**. Before funds are released, award recipient institutions will be required to review and sign a Funding Agreement. Guidance on the budget transfer process for State appropriations will be provided by the Collaboratory during the award stage.

Funding for selected projects must be managed in accordance with State regulations found in Title 09, Subchapter 03M of the North Carolina Administrative Code, as well as any other regulations that may arise and/or change during the project performance period, as and when the Collaboratory receives updated guidance from relevant entities such as, but not limited to, the NCGA, North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), UNC System, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

## Contact

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Questions regarding this funding opportunity and the application process are welcome and should be sent to the Collaboratory team via email to [collaboratory@unc.edu](mailto:collaboratory@unc.edu).

This RFP is solely a request for expressions of interest and statements of qualification. It is not an offer to contract or an invitation capable of acceptance to create a contract. The Collaboratory may cancel or modify this RFP at any time without liability for any loss, cost, or expense as a result of that cancellation or modification. For more information about the Collaboratory and previously funded projects, please see <https://collaboratory.unc.edu/>.