2017-2018 Request for Proposals: Clinical and Operational Effectiveness and Patient Safety (COEPS) Small Grants Program For Faculty, Residents and Fellows

The SOM and CHCO are committed to providing the highest quality care to our patients. The SOM Dean’s Office-funded COEPS Small Grants Program, now in its 6th funding cycle, is intended to encourage faculty and staff to provide leadership in creating initiatives that put evidence into practice and implement innovative process improvements with the goals of improving patient safety, and/or enhancing the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care delivery. This year we are also opening eligibility in this program to our SOM residents and fellows based primarily at Children’s Hospital Colorado. This new extension of the COEPS Small Grants Program is intended to encourage trainees to become leaders in innovative quality and safety initiatives, as well as to promote faculty development of skills in mentoring trainees in these projects.

We have established this QI small grants program in order to seed promising ideas from our teams to provide leadership in improving clinical/operational effectiveness and patient safety. We encourage all applicants to employ multidisciplinary approaches and to make explicit use of QI methodologies when possible. This grant program will not support the development of new technologies or medications and the application of them into medical practice (translational research). The project must include CHCO clinical programs (inpatient or outpatient) and applicants must obtain approval from CHCO managers/practice directors in clinical areas where the project will be conducted.

**Faculty** applicants should consider the following additional guidelines:

- Applicants must be SOM faculty on staff at CHCO.
- Grants provide one-year of funding up to $25,000. A 12-month, no-cost extension is permissible if sufficient progress is made in the first grant year.
- Funding is primarily designed to support the operational costs of QI initiatives (e.g. PRAs, consultants, survey/statistical help, etc.). Projects to fund faculty effort may be considered in special circumstances where other operational improvement costs are separately funded or can be assured.

**Resident & Fellow** applicants should consider the following additional guidelines:

- Must be a resident or fellow in good standing in a CUSOM GME accredited residency or fellowship.
- Grants provide one-year of funding up to $10,000. Depending on residency timeline, a 12-month, no-cost extension is permissible if sufficient progress is made in the first grant year.
- Must provide a letter of support from a SOM faculty member with privileges at CHCO who is willing to serve as a project mentor for the project. The mentor should have demonstrated experience in quality improvement. The letter must include:
  - Relationship to resident/fellow applicant (project mentor, program director, etc).
  - Description of how faculty will provide support to applicant (e.g. plans for regular meetings, etc).
  - Provide a copy of the faculty mentor’s CV.

Please submit a **2-page letter of intent due by 11:59p on 4/2/17** which includes: project goals and specific objectives; background and significance; project design (setting, population, measures and how obtained and intervention); timeline; and anticipated cost. LOIs will be rated on the following criteria: importance (magnitude/scope, alignment with institutional goals), impact (expected outcomes, processes, cost), feasibility (PI and project team, resources, timeframe), and approach (QI methodology, multidisciplinary, innovative). A LOI proposal template can be found on the COEPS Small Grants Program website at [www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/coeps](http://www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/coeps).

Within two weeks of review, the grant committee will contact applicants selected to submit a detailed 10-page proposal due **June 4, 2017**. The committee anticipates announcing the awards on **July 3, 2017**, with funding to begin **August 1, 2017**. Please send letters of intent to: heather.hallman@ucdenver.edu or som.qismallgrants@ucdenver.edu. Please direct questions to: Daniel Hyman, MD, MMM, Daniel.Hyman@childrenscolorado.org.