

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Project Grants for the RESOLVE Rural Health Collaborative: A Partnership Between University of Montana and Providence

Several contributors from Providence and the University of Montana (UM) are working together to establish RESOLVE: A Rural Health Collaborative. The endpoint of this project is a structured collaboration between Providence and UM. The future structure allows each institution to support a share of the work using its own departments and programs and their respective resources for the common goal of improving rural health.

The RESOLVE Objectives are to:

- Improve health outcomes of identified rural health populations
- Advance care practices & protocols with rural health partners
- Improve telehealth and remote care access for rural communities and their providers
- Support vulnerable communities through advocacy of rural policies and investment

To promote initial collaborative research partnerships between Providence and UM investigators, we are soliciting pilot research grant applications that (a) involve a robust partnership between UM and Providence investigators; and (b) address one or more of the above RESOLVE Objectives. Funding for this opportunity is provided by the UM Office of Research and Creative Scholarship (ORCS) and the Providence Montana Foundation. RESOLVE will award pilot research grants to meritorious applications addressing the priority objectives outlined above.

Anticipated number of awards: The number of awards is contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

Award budget: The submitted budget is intended to support collaborations with both UM and Providence. Thus, applicants must submit two budgets (one for the UM component, and one for the Providence component). The total cost inclusive of both components must not exceed \$50,000.

Note that the funds need not be split evenly between the two entities, but we encourage equal scientific participation from the two participating entities. Funds that directly support UM personnel, resources and equipment will be allocated to the UM budget component to be funded by Office of Research and Creative Scholarship. Funds that directly support Providence personnel, resources and equipment will be allocated to the Providence budget component to be funded by the Providence Montana Foundation. Funds may be used only for those expenses that are directly related and necessary to the project. No Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are allowed.

Award project period: One calendar year. An additional one-year competitive continuation award may be available under a separate NOFO.

Mechanism of payment: The selected Providence applicant(s) will receive notice of a cost-reimbursable award to their department. The recipient must then provide their department's accounting information to enable transfer of funds. Funds will be disbursed on a cost reimbursable basis as the department incurs project-related expenses.

Key Dates:

NOFO release	19 November 2025
Letter of Intent	05 January 2026, 11:59 MT
Invitation to submit application	07 January 2026

Application due	30 March 2026, 11:59 MT
Notification of acceptance	18 May 2026
Earliest start date	01 June 2026

PI Eligibility: Eligible applications require a multiple principal investigator (MPI) team with a designated UM MPI and a designated Providence MPI. For the UM MPI, this funding opportunity is open to all UM faculty and staff who are eligible to [serve as a Principal Investigator \(PI\) on an externally sponsored project](#), which includes but is not limited to tenured and tenure-track faculty, research faculty, and permanent research staff members. A UM MPI cannot simultaneously hold an award under this mechanism and the UM University Grant Program (UGP). For the Providence MPI, this funding opportunity is open to any care provider or scientific staff with relevant background or expertise. Applicants looking to connect with a collaborator at UM or Providence are strongly encouraged to contact Kara Bensley (kara.bensley@providence.org) and Sara Cox (sara.cox@mso.umt.edu).

Project Eligibility: Projects must address one or more of the RESOLVE objectives. Preference will be given to projects that lead to a clear pathway for subsequent implementation research funding for improving health outcomes in rural populations. Projects need not be limited to Montana populations, but they must be focused on [rural populations served by the Providence healthcare system](#).

Letter of Intent: The required Letter of Intent is limited to 2 pages or less. The letter of intent should briefly explain the proposed research, the partnerships involved and roles of MPIs, the population or patient focus, and how the research addresses one or more of the RESOLVE objectives. Providence applicants must obtain organizational CFO/CEO letter of approval ahead of LOI submission. If you need assistance, please contact RESOLVE@providence.org. Letters and PI biosketch(es) must be uploaded in the RESOLVE Portal (resolve.health.umt.edu/login) **no later than 5:00 pm MDT on 30 March 2026**.

To create your portal account and upload your LOI:

1. Register using your Providence or University of Montana email at: resolve.health.umt.edu/registeruser
2. Click on the link in the verification email.
3. Login using the information you provided at registration.
4. Complete the RESOLVE Population Survey. Once complete, you will be redirected to the LOI screen.
5. Click the Create LOI button and follow the instructions.

Full proposal requirements: Following the letter of intent process, invited applicants will be provided with detailed application instructions. Briefly, the application will require:

- Specific Aims: 1 page
- Research Strategy: 4 pages
- Budget: template will be provided
- Budget justification
- Letter of support from the applicant's CFO/CEO and finance department.
- Statement current state of partnership and partnership development plan
- Study team description: Provide a brief overview of the organizational/administrative structure and function of the study team, particularly the administrative sites, data coordinating sites, enrollment/participating sites, and any separate laboratory or testing centers. The attachment may include information on study team composition and key roles (e.g., medical monitor, data coordinating center), the governance of the study, and a description of how study decisions and progress are communicated and reported.

- Just In Time IRB approval will be required for all research proposals selected for funding.

For questions about the RESOLVE program, please contact kara.bensley@providence.org, sara.cox@umontana.edu, jessica.fleser@providence.org or the RESOLVE group email addresses at RESOLVE@providence.org or RESOLVE@umontana.edu.

For technical questions about the portal, please contact Kathrene Conway (kathrene.conway@umontana.edu).