



## **Meredith Willson Pilot Research Program** ***2025 Call for Pilot Research Applications***

### **A. Description**

The Music Man Foundation is partnering with University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to offer the **“Meredith Willson Pilot Research Program”** supporting projects that focus on music and health research. The goal of the pilot research program is to encourage multidisciplinary collaborations that help catalyze research about the impact of music on health. We anticipate funding a total of six proposals. Each pilot proposal can have a maximum budget of \$20,000 for 9-12 months, and all proposals will be evaluated by a review panel.

#### Pilot Research Program Guidelines

- The funds can be used to generate pilot data, refine music-based interventions, support study planning activities, or support the development of novel approaches.  
Examples of topics that would be responsive to this request for applications (RFA) include (but are not limited to):
  - Small-scale pilot research project
  - Study planning (e.g., create community partnerships, develop study protocol with multidisciplinary input)
  - Developing or adapting a culturally relevant/meaningful music-based intervention
  - Refinement or feasibility of novel outcome measures or biomarkers
- The projects require a principal investigator and multidisciplinary collaboration(s).
  - The principal investigator (PI) will be responsible for leading the project.
  - The proposal may include co-investigators and consultants. A co-investigator is defined as a collaborator who will make significant contributions to the project but does not have overall responsibility and authority for the project.
  - Multidisciplinary collaborations could include researchers, music therapists, healthcare clinicians, music educators, musicians, and community-based music organizations.
- We strongly encourage submission of projects that have high potential for future extramural funding.
- Applicants may request up to \$20,000 for pilot project activities, such as salary support, research supplies, community facilitators, participant stipends, and community research space rental. All costs need to be justified.
  - Indirect costs are not allowed.
  - Funds may not be used for operating support of existing programs.
  - Funds may not be used to purchase equipment over \$2,000.
  - Funds may not be used to cover student tuition.
- For pilot projects involving human participants, human subjects approval from an academic Committee on Human Research (or Institutional Review Board) is required before funds are released.

## **B. Eligibility**

Eligibility needs to be met on the date of submission; no waivers will be accepted.

- The principal investigator or co-principal investigator must have an appointment at a U.S. academic institution.
- Postdoctoral scholars are eligible if they have an appointment at a U.S. academic institution.
- Only one application per principal investigator is permitted
- Prior Meredith Willson grant awardees are ineligible
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and the research must take place in the U.S.
- Students and medical residents are not eligible.
- The Sound Health Network leadership team cannot serve on any of the proposals.

## **C. Evaluation Criteria**

The review panel will evaluate proposals based on:

- Significance. Does the study address an important problem or barrier to progress related to music and health research?
- Innovation. Does the proposal include novel concepts, approaches, or methods that will advance knowledge about music and health research?
- Investigator(s). Do the principal investigator and co-investigators have the background necessary to complete the project? Does the proposal involve collaborators from multiple disciplines? Does the principal investigator have the expertise and experience needed to lead the proposal?
- Inclusion. Plan for fostering collaboration and inclusion. Does the plan effectively promote a culture of equal opportunity and engagement for all participants and collaborators.
- Approach. Are overall methods, study design, analyses, or planned activities appropriate?
- Environment. Will the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project? Will the project benefit from unique features of the environment, participant populations, or collaborative arrangements?
- Future potential. Is the proposal likely to lead to future extramural funding?

## **D. Review and Selection Process**

- A diverse panel with scientific and music health expertise will be convened to review applications.
- The review panel will prepare a written critique, which will be shared with applicants.
- Final funding decisions will be made by UCSF in consultation with the review panel.

## **E. Mentorship and Cohort Building**

- Each grant recipient will be required to attend two virtual mentoring / cohort-building sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to help encourage multidisciplinary dialogue and to share best practices and lessons learned.

## **F. Reporting Requirements**

- A written final report, required at the end of the funding period, should summarize the results of the proposal and identify resulting and/or planned publications and subsequent funding.
- Any resulting publication must acknowledge this funding mechanism.

- On an annual basis, we will ask the principal investigators to update any publications or grants that have resulted from this award.

**G. Key Dates**

Activity	Date
Request for Proposals announced	2/27/2025
Pilot Program informational webinar (see <a href="https://music.ucsf.edu/">https://music.ucsf.edu/</a> for details)	03/19/2025
Deadline for proposals. Electronically submit a single pdf file to Qualtrics (below)	04/28/2025
Funding decisions announced	06/2025
Final report due (2 months after funding ends)	TBD
Updates about outcome of funding (annual)	Annual

**Questions:** Contact Julene Johnson at [Julene.johnson@ucsf.edu](mailto:Julene.johnson@ucsf.edu)

# Meredith Willson Pilot Research Program - Proposal Instructions

Please write your proposal using the instructions below and create a single PDF file. Use Arial font; 11 pt; 0.5 inch for all margins; include page numbers; no appendices are allowed.

## Proposal Sections

### 1. Title page

- a. Project Title
- b. Principal Investigator name(s) – If the application has multiple principal investigators (PI), please designate a primary contact PI. Both PIs need to meet the eligibility criteria. Contact information (email, mailing address, and phone number).
- c. Budget amount requested
- d. Co-Investigator(s) names and email(s)
- e. Grant administrator name and email
- f. Acknowledgement of intention to attend two virtual mentoring / cohort building sessions.

### 2. Proposal (maximum of 6 pages, including figures and tables but excluding literature cited)

- Specific Aims (limit to 1 page).
- Significance and Innovation. Summarize the research or work that already has been done and articulate why your proposal will address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress. Also describe any innovations in concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions relevant to music and health (recommended length: 1 page).
- Research Plan. Describe your overall strategy, methods, research questions, hypotheses, analysis plan, activities, and outcomes (as appropriate). A timeline may also be helpful (recommended length: 2-3 pages).
- Inclusion. Plan for fostering collaboration and inclusion. Does the plan effectively promote a culture of equal opportunity and engagement for all participants and collaborators. (recommended length: ¼ page).
- Environment. Briefly describe the environment (e.g., space, resources) in which the work will be done (recommended length: ¼ page).
- Future potential. Describe how your proposal will lead to future extramural research funding (recommended length: ¼ page).
- References. (not included in page limit).

### 3. 2-page NIH Biosketch (non-fellowship)

- a. Required for principal investigators and co-investigators. Please see examples and links to the template on <https://music.ucsf.edu/>
- b. Required Length: 2 pages (maximum)
- c. Only include Biosketches for individuals listed on the grant (or those providing justified In-Kind Effort).

### 4. Budget and Budget Justification

- a. Use the budget template on the website <https://music.ucsf.edu/>
- b. \$20,000 maximum per proposal.
- c. Budget items and roles on the project should be justified. Please see example on website.

Please submit your Proposal as a single PDF to the [Qualtrics Survey](#) on the <https://music.ucsf.edu/>