

## Research Development Fund – Fall 2023 Application Template

Application Title: **TXAN Mobile CARE & Clinical Trials Support: Advancing Clinical Care & Research Innovation: Reaching Rural & Remote Central Texas Populations.**

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Key Participating Units: **A&M Health: College of Nursing (Supporting Units: Medicine, Public Health)**

**RDF Amount Requested \$ 3,451,933 million**

### Executive Summary

#### **TXAN Mobile CARE & Clinical Trials Support: Advancing Clinical Care & Research Innovation: Reaching Rural & Remote Central Texas Populations**

In recent years the NIH, NSF, HRSA, AHRQ as well as national health policy makers have recognized the importance of mobile health clinics in the delivery of health care to *“effectively manage the health and wellbeing of patient populations”*.<sup>1</sup> (Aung, et al). Peer reviewed studies have also looked at the thorny issue of scarcity of *“brick & mortar”* clinical facilities for SUD, HIV, HCV and rare diseases. The A&M College of Nursing has emerged as a leader in Texas, and nationally, for mobile primary and behavioral health care for sexual assault, primary care and behavioral health, as well as CPRIT & Komen Foundation funded programs for cancer screening, education and treatment. Front and center in A&M-CON’s mobile clinical-training programs has been our willingness to take mobile care and diagnostic capacity to rural populations. A&M-CON seeks RDF grant funding for a critically needed mobile clinical exam vehicle for graduate training, research and clinical trials. A&M-CON depends upon our HRSA-funded mobile clinical van to carry out our training mission. In 2022 we received HRSA funding to purchase our first mobile clinical van and launch the *TXAN Mobile Care* in Brazos Valley; (HRSA UK1HP46064-02), a second mobile clinical diagnostic van to (1) deliver primary health care, and (2) deliver important clinical trials to rural populations. The van will deliver cost-effective care to our populations and will be a valuable return on investment.(Aung, et al.)

This RDF funding will allow A&M College of Nursing to purchase an urgently needed second large clinical van, equipped with diagnostic equipment, (mammography, CT, ultrasound, and laboratory) and mobile clinical trials capacity to launch the first ever mobile clinical care and clinical trials unit serving Texas A&M University. This will be the first of its kind at Texas A&M University and will consist of a 39-foot mobile clinical care and research unit bringing a fully equipped clinic, radiology diagnostics and laboratory to the regions we serve, and to A&M’s affiliated community hospitals and clinical practices. This acquisition will greatly enhance our capacity to conduct clinical research and clinical trials and will expand our access to populations living in underserved rural areas across the Brazos Valley and adjacent Central Texas regions that are in our catchment area. RDF equipment funding will allow us to reach underrepresented racial and ethnic communities and those unable to travel such as senior patients, hospitalized patients in our small rural hospitals, or nursing home residents. Our mobile clinical capacity will be greatly enhanced through equipment including mobile mammography unit, mobile CT unit, mobile laboratory equipment, mobile ultrasound, and expansion of our mobile clinical treatment facilities.

Nurse scientists, physicians, and public health researchers will partner, (See LOS), to employ the TXAN Mobile Clinical Care & Clinical Trials Research Unit to increase participation of populations that are often rural, remote and underrepresented. Importantly, the new mobile clinical research unit will be available for reservation to expand research services for investigators to reach remote rural populations. A&M-CON will now have the capacity to provide clinical care and clinical trials in the remotest parts of Brazos Valley and significantly expand our capacity to serve our region.