

IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT

FY25

Institute for Collaboration on
Health, Intervention, & Policy

UConn | UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT

Remembering Lisa Sanetti



Lisa Sanetti, PhD, BCBA, of Simsbury, passed away on August 12, 2025.

Lisa was a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology in the Neag School of Education. She joined UConn in 2007, and over her nearly 20-year career, she became a renowned expert in implementation science, teacher well-being, youth mental health, and school-based intervention.

Lisa was a licensed psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst whose research focused on developing, implementing, and evaluating school-based mental health interventions to improve public health outcomes, advance student achievement, and bolster educator retention. Her work significantly shaped the field of educational psychology.

Lisa was an esteemed InCHIP PI and served as a steering committee member of the UConn Collaboratory for School and Child Health (CSCH) where her expertise shaped its mission from the beginning. During the 2023 fiscal year, Lisa received more than \$5.3 million in funding for projects focused on the implementation of interventions to improve teacher mental health.

In addition to being a prolific researcher, Lisa was well respected in the classroom. In 2015-2016 she was named a UConn Teaching Fellow.

Lisa will be dearly missed by colleagues and students alike.

You can find Lisa's obituary [here](#) and read more about her important work [here](#).

InCHIP Mission

To bring together individuals with diverse scientific, clinical, and methodological expertise and support their evolution into collaborative investigators who conduct innovative interdisciplinary research that impacts public health and well-being.



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Fiscal Year 2025: Resilience, Innovation, and Impact at InCHIP

Dear Colleagues,

Fiscal Year 2025 was marked by unprecedented challenges and extraordinary resilience, collaboration, and achievement across the InCHIP community. Early in the new year, the federal research landscape dramatically shifted: review of federal grants halted, funding for new awards paused, non-competitive renewals ceased, and entire areas of research were defunded. In the face of these major disruptions to science, InCHIP came together with determination and creativity.

InCHIP launched a series of "coffee breaks" where InCHIP leadership shared critical updates on federal funding. These informal gatherings became a space for researchers to support one another, share insights, and strategize. InCHIP PIs also demonstrated exceptional resilience—FY25 saw one of the highest numbers of grant submissions in InCHIP history.

InCHIP PIs also have much to celebrate from FY25. They continue to earn local, national, and international

recognition for their work. InCHIP investigators served on federal, state, and international advisory boards and grant review panels; provided public health testimony to state and federal officials; published in top-tier medical journals; received prestigious awards through their professional societies; and were featured in major media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and USA Today.

In FY25, our Research Development Team remained focused on advancing the research success of faculty and students across UConn. Highlights from the year include:

- A revamped NIH grant writing workshop, which featured a full-day training followed by several weeks of intensive grant writing mentorship.
- A revitalized Community-Engaged Research Core, which hosted two major events—including a gathering in downtown Hartford aimed at strengthening university-community research partnerships to address the most pressing public health issues facing Connecticut residents.

- Two workshops on how to write effective policy briefs and communicate research to non-scientific audiences. Of note, InCHIP also provided support and sponsorship for the second annual Moving Beyond Implications Conference, held at the Legislative Office Building in downtown Hartford. This conference united researchers and Connecticut legislators to develop actionable, evidence-based policy for the state.

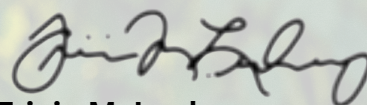
- The year culminated with the award of internal seed grants, which provide faculty with critical pilot funding and professional development support to be competitive for future external funding.

Looking ahead, InCHIP remains committed to supporting research excellence and innovation. In FY26, InCHIP will host events on foundation funding, federal funding, poverty and health, and community-engaged research. We will also launch our internal faculty development and seed grant programs.

InCHIP's achievements are a direct reflection of the talent, generosity, and dedication of

InCHIP PIs and staff. As we move forward, I am confident that our community will continue to persevere, adapt, and lead the national conversation on human health and well-being.

All the best,

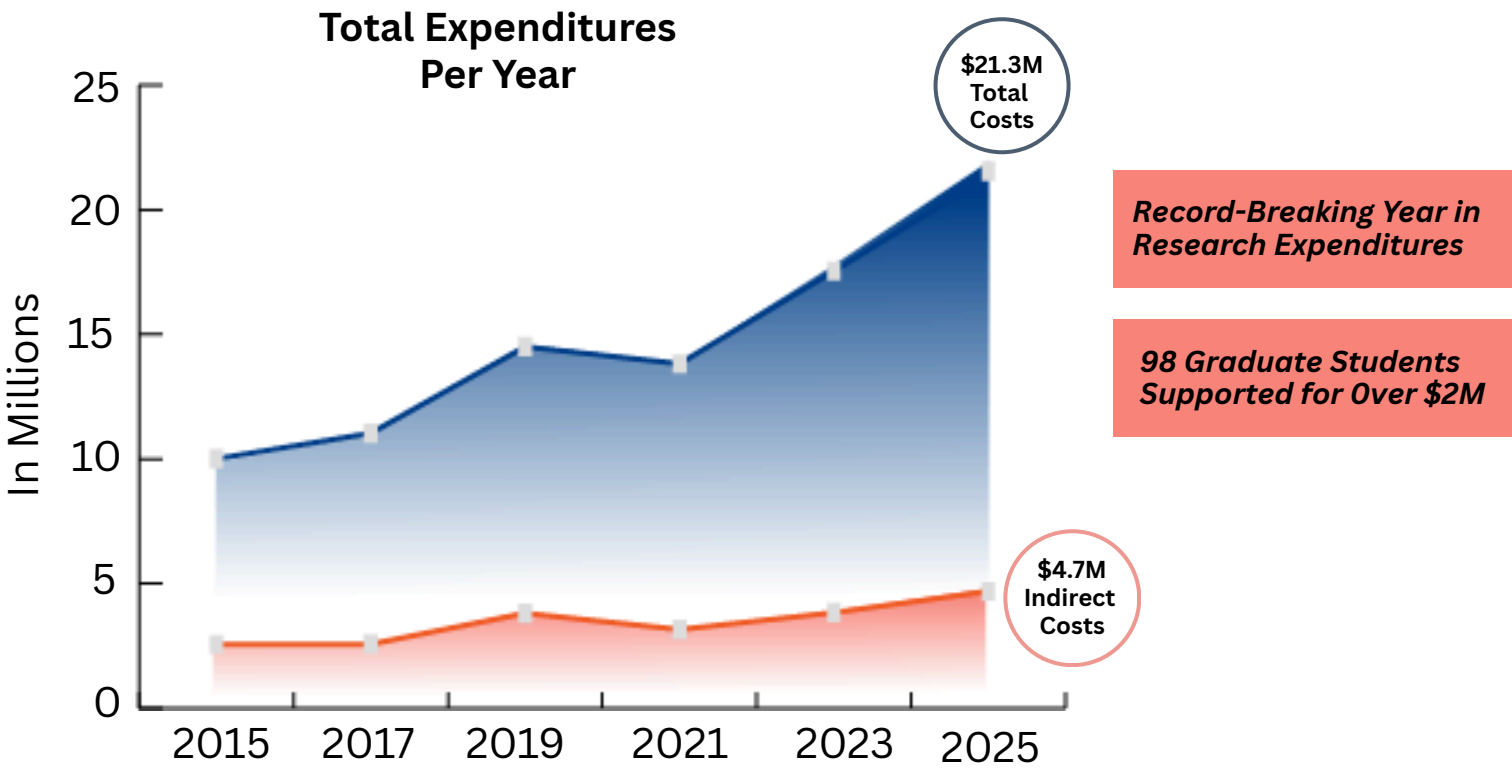
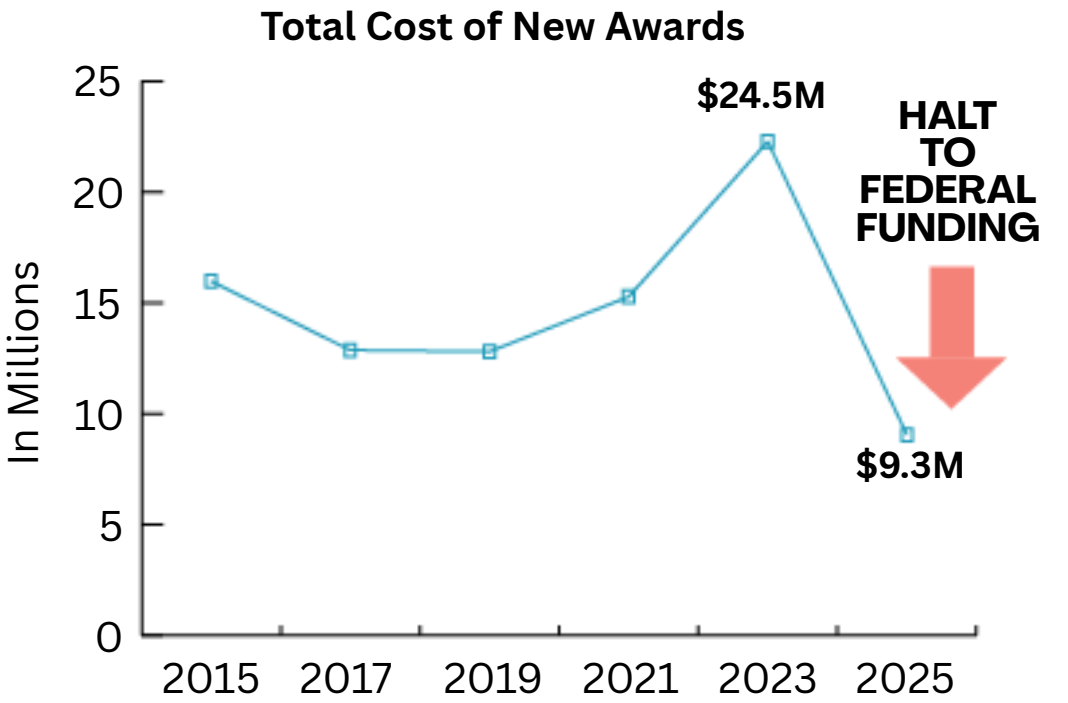


Tricia M. Leahey
Director, InCHIP
Professor, Allied Health
Sciences

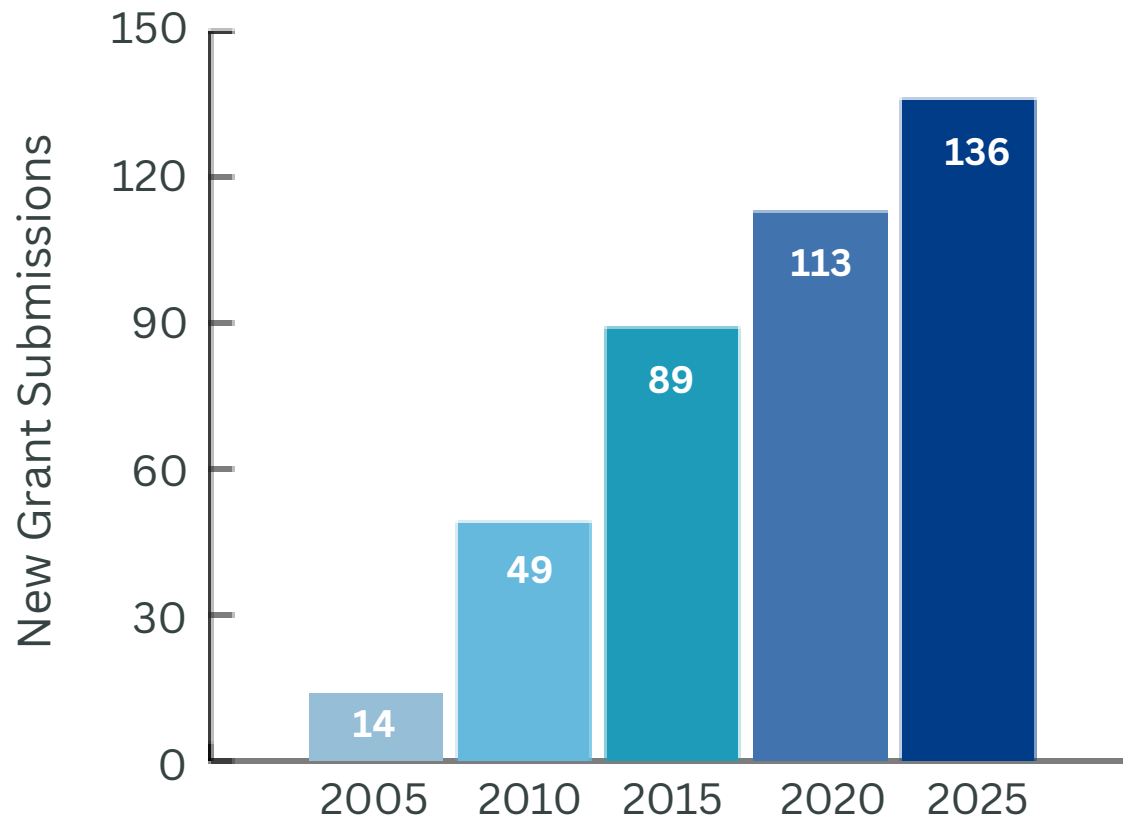


FY25 BY THE NUMBERS

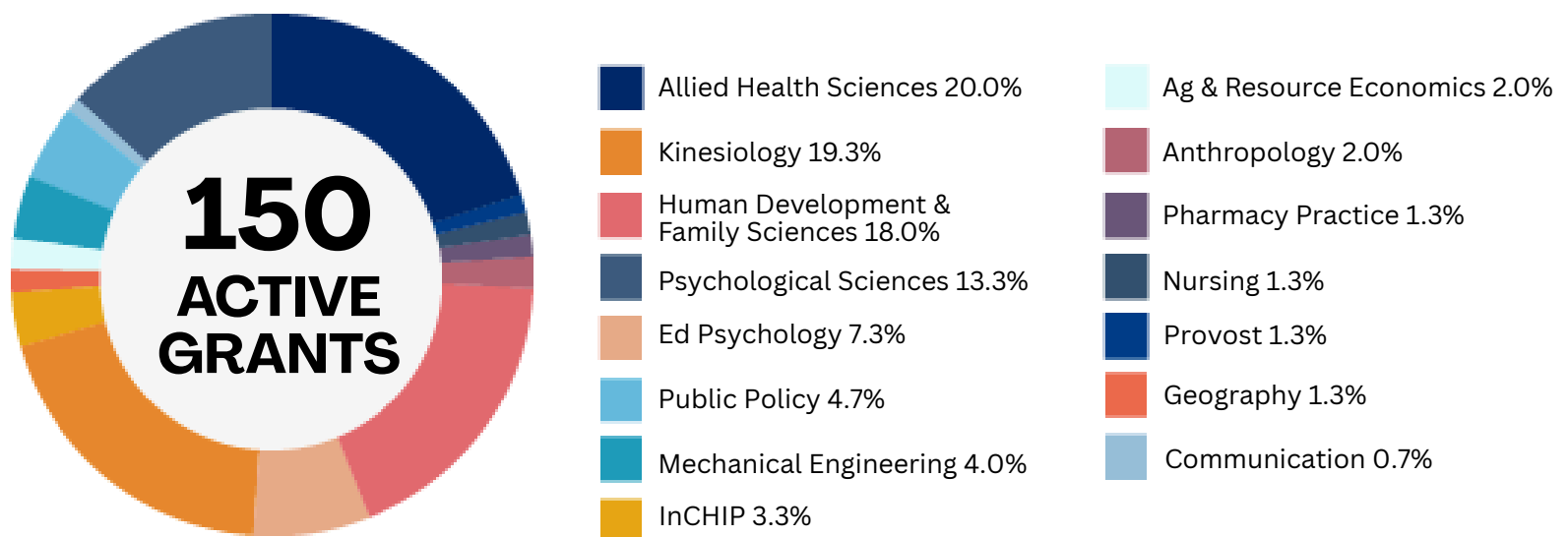
FY25 was marked by unprecedented disruptions to scientific research, with federal funding for new awards halted for much of the year. Despite these challenges, InCHIP PIs demonstrated remarkable resilience. Research expenditures reached an all-time high, and grant submissions were the second-highest in InCHIP’s history.



Total Number of New Grant Submissions



Distribution of InCHIP Grants by Investigators' Home Department



Communicating InCHIP's Impact

©CBS NEWS

ctmirror



ctpost

The Guardian

The New York Times

Science



The Washington Post

2,200 MEDIA MENTIONS IN FY25

From FY24

59% INCREASE IN MEDIA MENTIONS

GROWTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE



Facebook: +20%

LinkedIn: +35%

INCREASING OUR MEDIA PRESENCE

In FY25, InCHIP investigators were featured prominently in the media, receiving more than **2,200 mentions** in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *CBS News*, *The Guardian*, *Science Magazine*, *CT Mirror*, *CT Post*, and *Connecticut Public*. During the past year, media mentions rose by **59%**.

EXPANDING OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT

This year, InCHIP broadened its social media presence to expand reach and tap into new audiences. InCHIP is now on BlueSky and Instagram. Across all platforms, InCHIP **gained 192 new followers**. The largest increase of followers occurred on LinkedIn with a 35% growth from FY24. Facebook saw the second highest increase with a follower growth of 20% from FY24.



InCHIP PIs Collaborate with CT Communities to Improve Health

Providing Meals for Moms

Andrea Shields, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UConn School of Medicine, and **Molly Waring**, Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences in CAHNR, are leading an interdisciplinary initiative to establish the Meals4Moms program to assist individuals diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). The team is collaborating with My Local Chefs, a Hartford small business, to provide free meals aligned with the American Diabetes Association’s recommendations for GDM, along with personalized exercise support and access to evidence-based resources.



Andrea Shields



Molly Waring

Developing HIV Interventions for People Who Inject Drugs

Michael Copenhaver, Professor of Allied Health Sciences, is leading a project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse focused on opioid use prevention in New Haven, CT. His team is actively recruiting participants for the project, which evaluates the effectiveness of interventions to enhance cognitive processing of HIV prevention content, with the ultimate goal of improving adherence to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an HIV prevention medication.



Michael Copenhaver

Addressing the Negative Impact of Unhealthy Food Marketing

Frances Fleming-Milici, Director of Food Marketing at the UConn Rudd Center, is working with the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) to engage Hartford youth as citizen scientists to address the impact of unhealthy food marketing practices. Unhealthy marketing of food and beverages to children has contributed to poor diet quality and diet-related disease.

In the US, youth of color living in low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by these marketing practices. The Milici-HHC partnership, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will engage youth of color as adolescent citizen scientists to co-design a systems level program to address unhealthy food marketing practices.



Frances Fleming-Milici

Supporting Comprehensive School Wellness in Connecticut

Sandra Chafouleas, Co-Director of the Collaboratory on School and Child Health, and **Marlene Schwartz**, Director of the UConn Rudd Center, secured a 5-year grant from the CDC to support the Connecticut Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Partnership (WSCC). The partnership helps Connecticut school districts implement the WSCC model to promote students' physical, emotional, social, and behavioral well-being.



Sandra Chafouleas



Marlene Schwartz

Identifying Need for Earned Wage Access

Kerri Raissian, Director of the UConn ARMS Center, and **Jennifer Necci Dineen**, Associate Director of UConn ARMS, published a study underscoring the value of earned wage access for Connecticut residents. The study was prompted by changes the State of Connecticut made to its banking regulations, which eliminated consumers' ability to pay a fee for instant wage transfers through the Earned Wage Access (EWA) program. As a result, EWA was eliminated in Connecticut. EWA allows workers to access income they have already earned but have not yet received.

The study surveyed credit-constrained individuals who reported living paycheck-to-paycheck. Respondents said EWA helped them pay for food, transportation, and housing. After the policy change affecting EWA, many reported unmet financial needs and turned to borrowing from family and friends, using credit cards, or setting up payment plans. The study demonstrates the value of EWA for respondents with financial challenges and has policy implications.



Jennifer N. Dineen



Kerri Raissian

InCHIP Strengthens its Community Engagement Core and University–Community Partnerships

Over the past year, InCHIP’s Community Engagement Core has been rebuilding, thanks to contributions from community-engaged researchers from across the university. Originally established in 2017, the Community Engagement Core is currently co-led by **Caitlin Caspi**, Associate Director of InCHIP; **Kim Gans**, Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences; and **Kristen Cooksey Stowers**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences.

In September, the Core hosted a community-engaged faculty retreat attended by faculty from across UConn. The retreat served as a brainstorming session focused on identifying strategies to strengthen community-engaged research at UConn. Key priority areas that emerged were facilitating compensating community collaborators, enhancing internal and external communications, supporting faculty new to community-engaged research at UConn, and strengthening UConn’s presence in the community.

Following the retreat, The Core convened a 12-member Steering Committee, with representatives from departments and centers across the university, including the Health Disparities Institute and the Office of Outreach and Engagement. The Steering Committee is charged with helping to shape the strategic direction of the InCHIP Community Engagement Core and provide input on event planning and new initiatives.

In Spring of 2025, the Steering Committee also organized Reconnecting for Healthy Communities. Held at the Hartford Public Library, the event brought together UConn researchers and community partners with the goals of understanding community needs and advancing collaborative project ideas. It featured a panel discussion highlighting both challenges and successes of existing community-academic partnerships, followed by a topic-based networking session.

As part of its revival, the InCHIP Community Engagement Core has also launched a new listserv and set up a Teams communication channel. Additional events are being planned to further strengthen relationships between university researchers and community partners.





2nd Annual Moving Beyond Implications Conference

Turning Research into Policy

To facilitate conversations between state lawmakers and researchers for evidence-based policy in Connecticut, InCHIP PI and Director of the UConn ARMS Center **Kerri Raissian** and State Representatives **Jaime Foster**, D-57th District, and **Dominique Johnson**, D-143rd District, co-hosted the second annual Moving Beyond Implications: Turning Research into Policy Conference in December 2024.

InCHIP and the Connecticut Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network (CT SSN) helped to organize and co-sponsored the event, which took place just weeks before the start of the Connecticut General Assembly's 2025 legislative session. During the conference, researchers had an opportunity to present their policy-relevant scholarship, and policymakers had a platform to respond with their research needs.

Nearly 200 participants attended the event, at which 23 policy-relevant research presentations were delivered by InCHIP PIs and UConn faculty and students to six standing committees of the Connecticut General Assembly. Topics covered a myriad of policy-related issues including universal free school meals, farm-to-school programs, gun violence prevention, mandatory minimum sentencing, energy drink regulation, and expanding access to children's behavioral health services through Medicaid.

"InCHIP is doing a lot to support researchers to ensure they can do health-relevant and policy-relevant work. We're thrilled to support Moving Beyond to connect researchers with state policymakers," says Caitlin Caspi, InCHIP Associate Director.



NEW EXTERNAL AWARDS FY25

InCHIP PIs received several new external awards in FY25, contributing to UConn's grant portfolio by more than \$9 million.

Descriptions of new external awards are below. A full list of all active external grants at InCHIP can be found in the Appendix.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Tatiana Andreyeva (Agricultural & Resource Economics) received funding from the University of Illinois Chicago to examine the short-term effects of state-funded universal school meal programs on household food purchasing behaviors. She will examine changes in the healthfulness of food bought and explore how these programs influence the food choices of other household members.

Valerie Duffy (Allied Health Sciences) received funding from Connecticut Department of Social Services and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue leading UConn's School and Family SNAP-Ed program, which delivers nutrition education to SNAP-eligible families and supports Healthy Family CT, a resource hub offering practical food and nutrition information.

Marlene Schwartz (Human Development & Family Sciences) will lead several new projects funded by Duke University, USDA, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Partnership for a Healthier America. The research will develop assessment tools and online platforms to improve charitable food environments, farm-to-school policies, school wellness programs, and childcare nutrition strategies, while also evaluating household food insecurity.

Ellen Shanley (Allied Health Sciences) received funding from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Administration for Community Living to evaluate a novel referral model connecting hospitalized older adults to community meal programs. Her feasibility study aims to improve continuous nutrition care, enhancing food security and nutritional outcomes for this vulnerable population.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Douglas Casa (Kinesiology) received over \$1.8 million in new awards this year to study gender differences in thermoregulation, improve athletic training services, and evaluate heat safety equipment and policies. These projects are funded by Genova Diagnostics, Beiersdorf, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, ColdVentures, Polar Chill, Falmouth Road Race, LiquidIV, Kestrel Instruments, UPS, NFL Foundation, Delta Air Lines, and Epicore Biosystems.

Elaine C. Lee (Kinesiology) received funding from Foothold Labs to refine biosensors to detect biological markers of heat stress. These sensors will be integrated into the NanoRev™ diagnostic platform to provide portable and affordable testing for exertional heat acclimation.

DNA TESTING

Jessica Cerdeña (Anthropology) received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to lead a 2-year ethnographic study exploring how individuals reconstruct kinship, race, and self-identity after receiving unexpected results from consumer DNA testing, known as "DNA surprises." This research is the first of its kind in this area.

HIV & SUBSTANCE USE

Renee El-Krab (Psychological Sciences), advised by Seth Kalichman, received a new award from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop a novel intersectional tool that measures HIV stigma in South Africa. This tool aims to address stigma, a significant barrier affecting progress throughout the HIV care continuum in the region.

Nate Rickles (Pharmacy Practice) received additional funding from the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Adopt-a-Health District program, established in 2021 to connect pharmacy and public health students with local health departments, to help support student placement costs. He also received funds to expand an opioid safety project that provides accredited training modules and workshops for pharmacy technicians.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

Kristen Cooksey Stowers (Allied Health Sciences) received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to collaborate with researchers from multiple universities to develop best practices aimed at eliminating stigma, discrimination, and racism within the food banking system, ensuring a more dignified and equitable experience for all users.

Amy Egbert (Psychological Sciences) received funding from the American Psychological Association (APA) to investigate disordered eating behaviors among adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease. Her research aims to understand the intersection of eating, weight, pain, and sociocultural factors to guide future healthy lifestyle interventions targeting obesity in this underserved population.

Jolaade Kalinowski (Human Development & Family Sciences) received a K01 training grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to develop and pilot test a mobile-delivered mindful walking intervention to reduce stress and increase physical activity among Black women with hypertension. The study's findings will guide a future efficacy trial.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Kerri Raissian (Public Policy) received funding from Arnold Ventures and Daily Pay for projects to explore domestic violence prosecution strategies and earned wage access, respectively. These projects evaluate the Target Abuser Call program's impact on safety and legal outcomes, as well as examine how earned wage access programs affect financial well-being in Connecticut.

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY

Crystal Park (Psychological Sciences) and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania received funding from the Templeton Research Trust to collaborate on developing a new psychological measure that defines and maps foundational self-beliefs. Their work focuses on reviewing existing literature and evaluating potential items for inclusion in the measure.

Richard Sosis (Anthropology) and colleagues at Baylor University received funding from the Templeton Religion Trust to analyze data and contribute to manuscripts for a study exploring how religious beliefs shape family size and child outcomes, with emphasis on the biological and social mechanisms underlying these relationships.

SCHOOL & CHILD HEALTH

Rachel Cohen (Human Development & Family Sciences) received a continuation award from Educare Springfield to develop and implement a data collection and feedback system aimed at optimizing Educare program delivery and enhancing outcomes.

Deb Fein (Psychological Sciences) received funding from Oregon Health and Science University and KUNL to implement the Opt-In Early program in rural Oregon. The program provides developmental information to parents of toddlers and preschoolers with autism, aiming to improve child behavior, increase parenting confidence, and reduce parental stress.

Eric Loken (Educational Psychology), in partnership with Sandra Chafouleas and David Campbell and colleagues at Boston College, received funding from the National Institutes of Health to support curriculum development and teacher training for Brain Healthy, a program that engages students in citizen science projects focused on brain health and data science literacy.

Caitlin Lombardi (Human Development and Family Sciences) advises Vanessa Esquivel (doctoral student), who received a Head Start Dissertation Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services and Administration of Children and Families to explore how relationships between Latine parents and Early Head Start providers influence family outcomes through a mixed methods study.

Sudha Srinivasan (Kinesiology) received funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for a pilot study testing a home-based intervention using joystick-operated ride-on toys to improve upper limb function in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy.

AGING

Keith Bellizzi (Human Development & Family Sciences) received funding from the National Cancer Institute to conduct a case-control cohort study using All of Us Research Program data. The study will examine how cumulative social determinants of health relate to accelerated aging in cancer survivors and whether physical activity moderates these effects.

CANCER

Amanda Denes (Communication) received funding from the NCI to lead a pilot study, in collaboration with **Keith Bellizzi**, exploring how couples communicate about sexuality, intimacy, and well-being when facing metastatic breast cancer. The study examines how these communication dynamics affect sexual, relational, and psychological outcomes.

OBESITY & WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Sherry Pagoto (Allied Health Sciences) and **Christie Idiong** (doctoral student) received funding from the NIDDK to conduct a randomized trial comparing asynchronous and synchronous remotely delivered lifestyle interventions. The study will assess efficacy, scalability, and sustainability for weight loss maintenance.

Rebecca Puhl (Human Development and Family Sciences) received funding from Eli Lilly to expand and update content on the Supportive Obesity Care website, which provides educational resources aimed at reducing weight stigma and improving care for individuals with obesity.



NIH GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

In February of 2025, InCHIP hosted its highly anticipated NIH Grant Writing Workshop which provides critical guidance for the development of competitive NIH grant applications. This full-day, in-person training brought together 116 faculty, postdocs, and graduate researchers from 35 departments across UConn to strengthen their knowledge of the NIH funding landscape and enhance their competitive edge as grant applicants. Attendees spanned diverse disciplines from Psychological Sciences to Engineering,

Medicine, Allied Health Sciences, and the Humanities, reflecting InCHIP's commitment to interdisciplinary research and external funding.

In survey feedback, attendees reported the workshop exceeded expectations, better equipped them to submit NIH proposals, and increased their confidence and readiness to write an external grant application.

INTENSIVE MENTORED GRANT WRITING TRAINING

Following the February 2025 NIH Grant Writing Bootcamp, InCHIP offered an Intensive Mentored Grant Writing Training to support the continued development of NIH grant proposals among early-stage faculty.

Led by **Seth Kalichman**, InCHIP PI and Professor of Psychological Sciences, and **Avi Mishra**, InCHIP's Director of Research Training and Development, this eight-week program provided tailored, hands-on guidance to a group of UConn faculty actively involved in the NIH grant writing process. The training began with an introduction to NIH grants, including grant anatomy and narrative development. Subsequent sessions focused on iterative reviews of Specific Aims, building the case for Significance, and generating excitement around Innovation. Later sessions emphasized the Approach section, covering feasibility, detailed methodology, and the Human Subjects sections, with multiple rounds of review. Throughout the training,

faculty received tailored guidance and support to strengthen their NIH grant applications.

Faculty reported the training as excellent and exceeding expectations, noting that the structured timeline helped foster significant progress, making it an important step in advancing their grant submission.





InCHIP's Federal Funding Coffee Break Series Fosters Support and Collaboration

In the face of an uncertain federal funding landscape, InCHIP launched a timely initiative in the spring of '25: The Federal Funding Coffee Break Series. Designed to foster connection and support across disciplines, these informative gatherings offered faculty across UConn a space to share federal funding updates, strategize on how to navigate the funding climate, and build resilience together.

Offered in both in-person and virtual formats, the Coffee Breaks were held monthly from January through May 2025 and were led by InCHIP Associate Director **Caitlin Caspi** and Director **Tricia Leahey**. The sessions emphasized community connection, real-time federal funding updates, and the opportunity to develop strategies for addressing obstacles in the funding process.

It also included a panel of seasoned UConn investigators who shared candid reflections and strategies for navigating the current external funding climate. Panelists included **Seth Kalichman** (Professor, Psychological Sciences), **Sherry Pagoto** (Professor, Allied Health Sciences), **Rebecca Puhl** (Professor, Human Development and Family Sciences), **Roman Shrestha** (Assistant Professor, Allied Health Sciences), and **Molly Waring** (Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences).

Over the course of five events, the series drew 129 attendees from 35 departments across UConn, reflecting strong campus-wide engagement. The diversity of departments, from Psychological Sciences to Digital Media Design, underscored the widespread concern surrounding recent changes in federal funding for science and the importance of collaborative solutions.

129 attendees from **35 departments**
participated in the initiative



2025

INCHIP SEED GRANTS

Each year, InCHIP hosts internal funding competitions for UConn faculty across the university, including UConn Health and regional campuses. These seed grants are the engine for innovative pilot projects that lay the foundation for future external grant proposals in the field of human health. This year, InCHIP supported 18 new research projects across 14 UConn Schools and Departments. InCHIP remains committed to seeding health research and fostering scientific discovery across disciplines.

In FY25, InCHIP funded 18 new projects through the following mechanisms:

- Faculty Seed Grants
- Pilot Studies in Health Equity, Human Rights, & Social Justices Approaches to Health in collaboration with The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute
- Environmental Health Seed Grant Award
- Community-Engaged Health Research Seed Grant
- Pilot Studies in Women's Health Seed Grant
- Biobehavioral Research Supplement in collaboration with UConn School of Nursing's Biobehavioral Research Lab.

FACULTY SEED GRANTS

Lisa Barry, PhD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Center on Aging

- Taking the Next Step: Implementing Gait Speed Assessment among Older Persons Living with HIV

Amanda Cooper, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication

- Letters to Dementia: A Brief Intervention to Shift Caregiver Perspectives and Improve Caregiving Communication

Damion Grasso, PhD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry

- Examining Father-Child Physiological Regulation and Children's Experiences in a Father-Focused Intervention for Reducing Intimate Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment Risk

Yuan Gui, MD, PhD, Instructor, Nephrology

- Dissecting the Role of Extracellular Matrix Protein 1 in Chronic Kidney Disease

Chenglin Hong, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

- Utilizing Machine Learning and Implementation Science for Intimate Partner Violence Prevention among Diverse Young Sexual Minority Men Who Use Substance: A Mixed-Methods Study

Roman Shrestha, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Allied Health Sciences

- Improving Services for Non-Communicable Diseases among Sexual and Gender Minorities in Nepal: A Mixed-Methods Study

HEALTH EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, & SOCIAL JUSTICE APPROACHES TO HEALTH SEED GRANTS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GLADSTEIN FAMILY HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

Vicki Magley, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences

- Invisible Wounds, Unequal Burdens: Who Protects the Most Vulnerable? Investigating Abusive Supervision among International PhD Students and Postdocs

Rupal Parekh, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

- Enhancing Social Engagement: A Framework for Rights-Based Innovation in Aging

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SEED GRANTS

Jessica Malek, PhD, Assistant Professor in Residence, Department of Allied Health Sciences

- Mitigating the Risk of Lyme Disease Through Education and Environmental Surveillance

Yoo Min Park, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Sustainability, Community, and Urban Studies

- The Hidden Cost of Sustainable Public Transportation: Identifying Commuter Exposure to Air Pollution in Subway Systems

Shinsuke Tanaka, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

- From Leaf to Life: How Residential Greenness Modifies Temperature-Related Infant Health

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED HEALTH SEED GRANTS

Sarah Rendón García, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences

- Understanding the Experiences of Migrant Workers: Exploring Stress Management Practices

Sandy Grande, PhD, Professor, Political Science

- UConn-CT Tribal Nations Healthy Aging Initiative Understanding Views on Healthy Lifestyles and Aging in Northeastern Indigenous Elders: An Exploratory Study

Camilo Ruiz, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Lorena Solis, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences and El Instituto

- Reclaiming Wages, Rebuilding Dignity: Grassroots Organizations' Affective Response to Wage Theft in Latinx Immigrant Communities in Connecticut

WOMEN'S HEALTH SEED GRANTS

Sharon Casavant, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing*

- Examining Cannabis Product Use During Pregnancy: A Feasibility Study

Shardé Davis, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication

- Globally Relocating to Heal: A Pilot Survey Examining Black Women Expats' Health Profile

Neena Qasba, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology

- Enhancing Policy Impact for Reproductive Health Equity (EnPIRHE)

Molly Waring, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Allied Health Sciences

- Leveraging Podcasts to Promote Mental and Physical Health among Mothers

*Also the recipient of the Biobehavioral Research Supplement from the School of Nursing's Biobehavioral Lab

INCHIP SUPPORTS FACULTY GROWTH WITH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



InCHIP's Career Development Funds support faculty seeking access to training in a new topic area relevant to their research career and aligned with InCHIP's mission. This year, InCHIP awarded four faculty members across four different schools/colleges and departments to pursue trainings in AI, advanced statistics, and novel intervention techniques.



Miao Guo, PhD, Associate Professor in the School of Fine Arts, works at the intersection of mental health, user experience, and artificial intelligence. Her InCHIP award supported her completion of the following courses: Practical AI for UX Professionals from the Nielsen Norman Group and User Experience Research and Design Specialization from the University of Michigan.



Elizabeth Hintz, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, explores the experiences of individuals who are diagnosed with poorly understood health conditions and how they navigate difficult conversations with family members and clinicians. With her InCHIP award, she completed training in latent growth curve modeling and longitudinal data analysis, both relevant for her new NIH R01 proposal.



Dyanne Tappin, MD, Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine, studies maternal mental health and trauma-informed care. With her award, she is pursuing multiple trainings to inform her clinical research in maternal health and trauma including the Reproductive Psychiatry National Curriculum Course and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Training at Brown University.



Chenglin Hong, PhD, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, focuses on addressing health disparities among sexual and gender minorities. With his InCHIP award, he participated in the two-week Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at the University of Pennsylvania. This training allows Hong to integrate large-scale digital and social media data into behavioral health research, strengthening his R21 proposal to the NIDA.

OP-ED and Policy Briefs Training

During FY25, InCHIP collaborated with the Connecticut Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network (CT SSN) to offer two workshops aimed at helping researchers use policy briefs and op-eds to communicate their work to legislative and community audiences.

The first workshop, held in October, provided participants with an overview of best practices for writing policy briefs, from content selection, layout, and language to dissemination strategies. It also focused on how to transform briefs into op-eds.

Panelists included: **Kerri Raissian**, Director of the UConn ARMS Center; State Representative Jaime Foster, 57th Assembly District; and **Caitlin Caspi**, Associate Director of InCHIP and Director of Food Security Initiatives at the Rudd Center.

InCHIP offered another workshop in collaboration with UConn Global Affairs International Studies Association (ISA) and CT SSN. This session continued to support researchers in effectively communicating the importance of their work for legislative and community stakeholders. Panelists included: **Kerri Raissian**; **Debarchana (Debs) Ghosh**, Professor of Geography, Sustainability, Community, and Urban Studies; and **Caitlin Caspi**.



Kerri Raissian



Jaime Foster



Caitlin Caspi



Debarchana Ghosh





InCHIP Investigator Spotlight: Sudha Srinivasan

Sudha Srinivasan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. Trained as a pediatric physical therapist, her research focuses on developing and evaluating novel, engaging interventions and assistive technologies that improve functioning in children with developmental disabilities.

She is currently working in collaboration with the UConn College of Engineering to provide battery-powered cars to children with mobility-related disabilities. These vehicles help children become more mobile and independent. The initiative, Go Baby Go, modifies the toy cars to fit the needs of each individual child, usually between 1 and 5 years old. The program empowers children and families. The customized cars help children engage with their environment while improving mobility. The program also offers families a more accessible option.

Srinivasan and **Deborah Bubela**, Associate Professor in Residence in the Department of Kinesiology, spearheaded the program in 2017 through the Department of Physical Therapy's Advanced Pediatrics course. CAHNR and the College of Engineering have been working together on Go Baby Go since last year. Prior to the partnership, Srinivasan and Bubela modified the toy vehicles themselves.

In addition to Go Baby Go, Srinivasan has been leading a project that evaluates the effectiveness of parent-delivered mobility interventions that aim to improve arm use and motor function in children diagnosed with hemiplegic cerebral palsy, which affects approximately 40% of children with cerebral palsy. This project uses joystick-operated, ride-on toys (Wild Thing), a more engaging and affordable alternative to traditional therapies, which can be boring and repetitive for children. This project is one of several in her lab, the REhabilitation INnoVations & Emerging Novel Technology in Physical Therapy (REINVENT-PT) Lab.

The REINVENT-PT Lab investigates how infants and children with neurodevelopmental disabilities develop compared to typically developing peers and creates child-friendly and playful behavioral interventions using assistive technologies. The lab also studies health outcomes among adolescents and young adults with developmental disabilities.

The lab is currently developing creative play-based interventions using music, dance, and yoga for children with developmental disabilities, including autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.



Sudha Srinivasan, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Department of Kinesiology
College of Agriculture, Health,
and Natural Resources

Srinivasan has 15 years of clinical experience as a pediatric physical therapist, first starting in private practice. Driven by her interest in interventions outside of conventional therapies, she pursued her PhD in kinesiology at UConn where she worked on an NIH-funded study assessing the effects of rhythm and robotic therapies for children with autism.

Srinivasan has been a prolific researcher and is a recipient of InCHIP's Junior Faculty Research Excellence Award this year. In April, Srinivasan received the Kinsman CAHNR Excellence in Teaching Award. Since joining UConn in 2019, she has published 31 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals in her field.

InCHIP Investigator Spotlight:

César Ernesto Abadía-Barrero, PhD

César Ernesto Abadía-Barrero, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Human Rights, has long studied health disparities in Colombia, his native country, as well as in Brazil and the United States. His work dissects the relationship between capitalism, health, and communities of care and focuses on health programs, human rights advocacy through judicialization, and social movements in health.

Abadía-Barrero holds a degree in dentistry from the

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and a doctorate in medical anthropology from Harvard University. His work challenges the typical conceptions of healing, well-being, and peace, which often focus on the accumulation of material goods, reparations, and the absence of violence. He incorporates Indigenous epistemologies to understand how communities heal and establish harmony among themselves and with nature.

In October 2024, he received the Alejandro Angel Escobar National Prize in Social and Human Science for his 2022 book, “Health in Ruins: The Capitalist Destruction of Medical Care at a Colombian Maternity Hospital.” The book explores the devastating effects of privatizing healthcare in Colombia since the 1990s. Through the lens of El Materno, Colombia’s oldest maternity and neonatal health center and teaching hospital, Abadía-Barrero demonstrates how



privatization impacted the dynamics of teaching, learning, and working in healthcare. He employs collaborative ethnography to chronicle how professors, staff, and students persevered to provide innovative, high-quality care in the face of government shutdown and corrupt privatized systems.

The [Alejandro Angel Escobar National Prize](#) was established in 1955 to honor the legacy of Alejandro Angel Escobar, who believed science is vital for society's progress. The Foundation grants awards to innovative and socially impactful Colombian scientists and organizations in four categories: physics and natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences and sustainable development, and solidarity.

In December, Abadía-Barrero co-curated with visiting professor and acclaimed Indigenous artist Francisco Huichaqueo an installation for the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford that highlighted the experiences of migrant women from Latin America and non-traditional forms of healing from colonial violence. The installation [Ancestors Today: Visual Stories of Migrant Women](#) featured the women's paintings, collages, ceramics, and sewn and crocheted representations of the Latin American kitchen displayed alongside Indigenous artifacts from the museum's collections.

The installation, visited by over 16,000 people, was completed during the 2023-2024 academic year with Arte Popular, a Hartford-based migrant women's group. The women were invited to use art to illustrate their childhood memories of Latin America and the Caribbean, reconnecting them with their heritage and affirming their cultural identity. This was part of a larger initiative Abadía-Barrero launched in 2023 titled "Buen Vivir and Collective Healings." Buen Vivir is an Indigenous concept of well-being guided by living in harmony with one's surroundings, one's communities, and oneself.

"Buen Vivir and Collective Healings" employs collaborative art to understand and represent the lived experiences of groups impacted by colonial violence and their healing journeys. It was inspired by work Abadía-Barrero previously conducted with Vanesa Giraldo, Assistant Professor of Anthropology in Colombia, and Camilo Ruiz, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UConn, that focused on the [artistic representations of history, healing, and Buen Vivir of victims of the armed conflict in Colombia](#), particularly a collective of women who faced sexual violence.

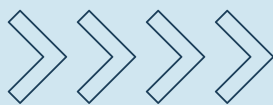


César Ernesto Abadía-Barrero, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Abadía-Barrero has previously incorporated Buen Vivir in his research. Since 2021, he has worked on a multidisciplinary project, led by Indigenous elders, to revitalize Indigenous Amazonian knowledge of medicinal plants and to create an index or indicator of community-based values to describe and measure Buen Vivir. Since 2017 Abadía-Barrero works with the [Red SaludPaz / Health Peace Network](#), a collective of academic institutions and social organizations dedicated to building peace in Colombia, alongside several UConn- and Colombia-based partners.



InCHIP Grows Multidisciplinary Collaborations through Partnership



A partnership between UConn Global Affairs and InCHIP focused on Mindfulness, Spirituality, and Planetary Health to advance the science and practice of mindfulness as it relates to the complex relationship between humans, the natural environment, and health. This collaboration aims to connect human awareness with an appreciation for Earth's complex and delicate ecosystems and human health. Research has demonstrated that spending time in nature benefits physical and emotional well-being, but human mindfulness, along with intentionality when interacting with the natural world, can also improve socio-ecological systems.

To understand how mindfulness can be harnessed to improve these systems, the Mindfulness, Spirituality, and Planetary Health research group, led by **Daniel Weiner**, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, in partnership with InCHIP, developed a research agenda that illuminates the interconnection of spirituality, resilience, mindfulness, and nature. The group met regularly over the past year to identify research priorities and external funding opportunities. Their efforts led to new collaborations and internal and external grant submissions and culminated in a networking and research development event spearheaded by Global Affairs during the Spring 2025 semester.

The event consisted of three panel discussions centered on human responsibility to nature, sustainability and well-being, and human-nature connections. Several InCHIP PIs were featured as panelists, including **César Abadía-Barrero**, **Crystal Park**, and **Na Zhang**. InCHIP Director **Tricia Leahey** moderated the third panel, which explored mindfulness practices and human-nature connections. Following the panels, members discussed the initiative's long-term goals and future for collaborative research.



Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute + InCHIP

In FY25, InCHIP continued its successful partnership with the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute (HRI; Director: **Kathryn Libal**) to offer seed grants focused on health equity, human rights, and social justice approaches to health. This approach acknowledges the social, structural, and environmental factors, along with biological factors, that shape human health and well-being.

This year's HRI-InCHIP seed grant awardees were **Vicki Magley** (Professor and Director of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Psychological Sciences) for her project entitled, "Invisible Wounds, Unequal Burdens: Who Protects the Most Vulnerable? Investigating Abusive Supervision Among International PhD Students and Postdocs" and **Rupal Parekh** (Assistant Professor, School of Social Work) for her project, "Enhancing Social Engagement: A Framework for Rights-Based Innovation in Aging."



As a partner in the Health Disparities Institute's (HDI; Director: **Linda Sprague-Martinez**) Menopause Equity Collective, InCHIP collaborated with statewide agencies, including the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity; the Aurora Women and Girls Foundation; and the Farmington Valley CT Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Together, we worked to center equity, representation, and comprehensive care in how we understand and support menopause and midlife experiences, especially for underserved and historically marginalized communities.

The year-long HDI Initiative launched the first of a series of menopause and midlife educational events, Real Talk: Breaking the Silence on Menopause, in May of 2025. The event welcomed over 100 women, including professionals earning continuing medical education credits and community members sharing real, personal stories. Its goal was to educate, connect, and shine light on menopause, an often hushed yet universal phase of life. A social brunch and screening of The M-Factor, a PBS documentary spotlighting personal accounts and medical insights regarding menopause, was followed by a discussion led by experts **Dr. Carla Gunn-Samson**, **Dr. Jessica Kluewer-D'Amico**, **Dr. Feier Liu**, and **Dr. Ivy Alexander**, whose specialties range from psychiatry and symptom management to skin and hair care. Attendees connected with each other and community organizations, and many shared candid reflections on navigating symptoms. The event also underscored how menopause disproportionately affects different racial and ethnic groups, with disparities in timing, symptom duration, and quality of care.



Institute of Materials Sciences + InCHIP

Over the past decade, the NIH and NSF have increasingly invested in sensor health research. Sensors are devices that detect and respond to stimuli in an environment. When used for health care and biomedical research, sensors often track biological, chemical, or physical processes and report data back to physicians and scientists. Such data can be used to inform and improve treatment. Sensors have a variety of applications, including measuring diabetes-related complications, body temperature, heart rate, blood oxygen, and more.

UConn's Institute of Material Sciences (IMS) and InCHIP convened a multidisciplinary group of investigators in October 2024 to discuss potential health sensor collaborations. The conversation focused on the development of novel sensors and technologies to improve heart disease, brain health, physical function, immunology, pulmonology, and mental health. To encourage innovative sensor research, InCHIP and IMS aim to put forth a new seed grant opportunity that leverages each institute's unique expertise and provides pilot data to compete for external funding.

IMS also invited InCHIP to present at its annual Industrial Affiliates Program meeting. This meeting facilitates partnerships between UConn faculty and industry representatives. At the meeting, an overview of InCHIP was presented by **Tricia Leahy**, Director, and three InCHIP PIs shared their industry-relevant research: **Linda Pescatello** (Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Kinesiology); **Sudha Srinivasan** (Assistant Professor, Kinesiology); and **Steven Kinsey** (Professor, Nursing). Conversations have continued in these domains, creating opportunities for UConn faculty and continued IMS-InCHIP partnerships.



InCHIP Honors 5 Faculty Members with Excellence Awards

InCHIP presents Excellence Awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of its faculty affiliates.

Junior Faculty Research Excellence Awards



Sudha Srinivasan, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, is honored for her impactful work in understanding developmental trajectories of individuals with disabilities and developing creative, inclusive, technology-driven interventions to support their growth across the lifespan.



Na Zhang, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, is recognized for her innovative research on mindfulness-based interventions designed to support diverse family systems, including divorced, bereaved, and multigenerational families.

Community-Engaged Health Research Excellence Award



Beth Russell, PhD, Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, is recognized for her outstanding contributions to community-engaged research. She serves as Director of the Center for Applied Research in Human Development, Co-Director of the Collaboratory on School and Child Health, and Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies. Her research is centered around the development of self-regulation, particularly the regulation of distress in diverse populations

Excellence Award for Research on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and Racism's Impact on Health Outcomes



Debs Ghosh, PhD, Professor in the Department of Geography, Community, and Urban Studies and Co-Director of the eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group, is recognized for her research examining how health is shaped by broader social and environmental contexts, particularly for vulnerable populations.



Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

Golda Ginsburg, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, is honored for her exceptional mentorship of over 50 trainees at all levels. Gold is the recipient of an NIMH K24 Mentoring Award, and several of her mentees have gone on to establish successful, externally funded research careers.

InCHIP FY25 Dissertation Assistantship Award Supports Health Equity Research in Autoimmune Disease Care

Jacqueline Gunning, a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication, has received InCHIP's FY25 Dissertation Assistantship Award. Her dissertation investigates how gendered and racial disparities shape the communicative labor women must undertake to be believed and to receive appropriate care in clinical settings.

Gunning's mixed-methods study explores how women with autoimmune disease (AD) prepare for and engage in "credibility work", a form of identity-based communication aimed at legitimizing their health experiences in the face of systemic bias. Gunning's research agenda focuses on gender and racial health disparities, chronic illness communication, and patient-provider interactions.

Gunning's dissertation builds on her impressive body of work, which includes 19 peer-reviewed publications and 8 book chapters.

She has received numerous honors for her scholarship, including the UConn Harriott Fellowship, a grant from the Africana Studies Institute, and a Graduate DEI Grant from the National Communication Association.

Gunning's findings will offer practical insights into how structural and interactional barriers shape women's experiences in healthcare, and how communication practices can be improved to reduce health disparities.



Jacqueline Gunning

PhD Candidate

Department of Communication

The Jeffrey D. Fisher Health Behavior Change Research Fellowship

Created in 2019 in honor of Jeffrey D. Fisher, founding Director of InCHIP. The Fisher Fellowship awards \$2,000 to one outstanding UConn graduate student conducting dissertation research on health behavior change.

This year's recipient is **Kamal Gautam**, a PhD candidate in Health Promotion Sciences whose dissertation research uses mobile health (mHealth) tools to address suicide prevention among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) in Nepal, a population experiencing suicide rates significantly higher than the global average.

Despite legal protections, GBMSM in Nepal face persistent stigma, cultural pressure, and structural barriers that limit access to mental health services.

Since joining UConn in 2022, Gautam has published five first-authored and 23 co-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals.

His research spans digital health, HIV prevention, mental health, and health equity, and he has played an active leadership role in NIH-funded projects across multiple countries.



Kamal Gautam
PhD Candidate
Health Promotion Sciences

InCHIP Lecture Series Features Leading Health Research Experts

In FY25, InCHIP's Lecture Series covered numerous topics, including health disparities, healthcare access, mental health, sexual violence, aging, heat safety, maternal and child health, air pollution, and HIV prevention.

InCHIP lectures are available to view on [InCHIP's YouTube](#) page.

7 Department Sponsorships

500+ Lecture Attendees

1500+ YouTube Views

Kristin M. Anders, PhD, Kansas State University, “Risk Factors for Violence in Sexual and Romantic Relationships across Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Call for Research and Action”

Susan D. Brown, PhD, FSBM, FABMR, University of California (Davis), “Clinical Trial Participation: Maximizing Generalizability and Public Health Impact”

Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA, FNAK, University of Connecticut, “External Heat Stroke: A Public Health Crisis in a Warming World – Exploring Current Efforts to Mitigate the Risk”

Heide Castañeda, PhD, University of South Florida, “Health Care Access for Immigrant Populations”

Kenneth E. Freedland, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, “Treatment of Depression in Patients with Heart Disease”

Christina H. Fuller, ScD, University of Georgia, “A Natural Solution to Disparities in Air Pollution Exposures”

Lisa B. Hightow-Weidman, MD, MPH, Florida State University, “Technology-based HIV prevention and Treatment Interventions for Adolescents and Young Adults”

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD, Yale School of Public Health, “The Impact of Neocolonialism on Global, Maternal, and Child Health”

Shalini Sivathasan, PhD, Boston College, “Reimagining Mental Health Care for Autistic Individuals: Social Justice Approaches for Research and Clinical Practice”

InCHIP also hosted two M3EWB talks

Laura Kubzansky, MPH, PhD, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “Aging with Well-Being: Considering Psychosocial Pathways”

Janine M. Simmons, MD, PhD, NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, “Charting a Path toward Emotional Well-Being: Perspectives from the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research”

FY25 Speakers

The FY25 Lecture Series was made possible with support from the Office of the Vice President of Research and through generous sponsorships provided by the following UConn Schools and Departments:

- Department of Allied Health Sciences
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Human Development and Family Sciences
- Department of Nutritional Sciences
- Department of Public Health Sciences
- School of Social Work
- School of Nursing

An aerial photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered on a green lawn, with several blue tents set up. To the right, a large, modern building with a curved, metallic, ribbed roof is visible. In the background, there are historic brick buildings, including one with a prominent white steeple and a gold dome. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees and rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

InCHIP Centers Annual Update

Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship in Gun Injury Prevention (ARMS)



ARMS is committed to understanding and addressing the root causes of gun violence in the United States. ARMS is directed by **Kerri Raissian** (Associate Professor, School of Public Policy) and **Jennifer Dineen** (Associate Professor In-Residence, School of Public Policy).

ARMS INNOVATES.

ARMS launched the first-ever Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard, an interactive tool that maps violent deaths across the state by geography and demographics. By leveraging vital statistics, the dashboard promotes transparency and informs data-driven interventions for gun violence prevention.

In partnership with Johns Hopkins University, ARMS also released the Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI), which captures nuanced public attitudes toward firearm policies. The HBI showed increasing gun ownership in recent years among women, young adults, and communities of color, along with broad support for secure storage laws and open carry rights.

ARMS ADVOCATES.

ARMS played a direct role in shaping Connecticut policy. Associate Director Jennifer Dineen testified before the General Assembly in support of HB 7042 and HB 7135, which focused on firearm manufacturer liability and community safety. At a NIH- and CDC-funded event at Yale School of Public Health, hosted by CT Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Jennifer represented ARMS in a panel discussion on bridging research and policy in gun violence prevention efforts. ARMS also co-hosted the Connecticut Moving Beyond Implications Conference in Hartford, CT, which convenes researchers and legislators to develop more evidence-based policy across the state.

ARMS EDUCATES.

ARMS hosted the 'On Target Seminar Series,' which spotlights emerging research on gun violence prevention. This year's topics ranged from the impact of lockdown drills to evaluations of red flag laws. The series remains an open forum for interdisciplinary dialogue on firearm-related harm.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE IN DIGITAL HEALTH

This year, CHASM Director, **Sherry Pagoto** (Professor, Allied Health Sciences), built a first-of-its-kind Digital Health course for undergraduate students. Although numerous graduate programs exist in digital health around the country, undergraduate students are rarely exposed to this innovative, fast-moving space. Undergraduate students will be introduced to health informatics, virtual reality, AI in healthcare, AI in mental health, personal health informatics, mobile health, user-centered design, social media health communication, and online patient communities. The course kicks off in Spring 2026 and is open to all UConn undergraduate students with a course cap of 100 students.

DIGITAL HEALTH ROUNDUP E-NEWSLETTER

CHASM's Digital Health Roundup is a weekly e-newsletter that features news, job postings, training opportunities, and the latest research in digital health. It reaches 2,200 subscribers each week. Given the national research funding crisis, hiring freezes, and job cuts in science and public health, in 2025 CHASM added news and job posting sections, which turned out to be the most popular sections of the newsletter. Open rates have doubled and click rates have tripled. CHASM strives to be the go-to resource for digital health news, research, employment, and training. [Click here to get on the list.](#)

TRAINING

CHASM has trained 12 graduate students and 8 undergraduate students this year.

PUBLIC-FACING ARTICLES

Waring, M.E., Killion, K. Awareness of MyPlate among U.S. adults with young children.
Boston University School of Public Health Public Health Post. Published 27 March 2025

Waring, M.E., Mandelbaum, J., Davis, J.W., Ma, T., Feinberg, S.I., Brown, S.D.. Using
Digital Tools for Gestational Diabetes Management. Society of Behavioral Medicine, Healthy Living.
Published 21 November 2024.

FEATURES IN UCONN TODAY

- [Meals4Moms: UConn, CT Small Business Develop Program to Support Gestational Diabetes Management](#)
- [UConn Study of Hashtag – #childhoodcancer – Shows Families Leading the Conversation](#)

FREE VIRTUAL WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

CHASM launched a virtual weight loss program called 'Health is Social' in 2024. It is currently available to the public for free.

Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH)

In FY25, CSCH (Co-Directed by **Sandra Chafouleas**, Educational Psychology & **Beth Russell**, Human Development and Family Sciences) continued its important work to support local schools, mentor students, disseminate research findings, and spearhead networking events.



RESOURCES FOR CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS

Childhood Trauma and School Mental Health

In September 2024, CSCH cosponsored and hosted the third "Symposium on Trauma Informed School Mental Health" with the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Connecting to Care, and UConn's Neag School of Education. School, behavioral health, community, and research leaders from across the state gathered to discuss how to align work around trauma-informed care in schools across CT.

Connecticut WSCC Partnership

Funded by the CDC, and in collaboration with the UConn Rudd Center, CSCH is now wrapping up the second year of its Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Partnership. This year, the Partnership provided professional development and technical assistance to East Hartford Public Schools to support implementation of whole child action plans. Statewide, the Partnership facilitated a year-long Community of Practice for district wellness teams, where teams received tailored support to complete the USDA-required Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment and develop action plans.

EDUCATION

The CSCH team held an event for undergraduate students in the Public Health House, led by CSCH Steering Committee member **Dr. Jaci Van Heest**. CSCH affiliates spoke with students about their research and career paths, sharing experience, guidance, and opportunities.

DISSEMINATION

CSCH released the following briefs, podcast episodes, and project profiles:

- Reducing Weight Stigma: How families can engage in supportive communication with youth of all body sizes, published in partnership with the Rudd Center on Food Policy and Health
- Who has Access to Early Head Start Home-visiting and Center-based Services?
- Pandemic Funding and Social-Emotional Supports in Connecticut Schools
- State Policies Matter for the Well-being of Immigrant Parents & the Academic Achievement of Their Young Children

NETWORKING

CSCH hosted an in-person networking event for affiliates in April 2025. It was co-sponsored by InCHIP and the UConn Health Department of Psychiatry. CSCH affiliates had the opportunity to hear flash talks on school and child health issues and form new connections with people from the community and university.



Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health

The Rudd Center is directed by **Marlene Schwartz**, PhD (Professor, Human Development and Family Sciences) and investigates strategies to address food insecurity, poor nutrition, and weight bias through research and policy.

Contributions to Science, Education, & Media.

- 5 new external research grants totaling \$771,531
- Total active grant portfolio of \$10,647,865
- 34 new peer-reviewed publications
- Student mentorship:
 - 21 PhD students
 - 8 Master's students
 - 6 undergraduate students
- Media mentions: *New York Times*; *Washington Post*; *CBS News*; *USA Today*; *Associated Press*; *The Guardian*; *Los Angeles Times*; and more

Charitable food system work is led by Caitlin Caspi (Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences), Maria Gombi-Vaca (Assistant Research Professor, Rudd), and Marlene Schwartz (Professor & Director). In FY25, the team worked with Connecticut Food Share to support the implementation of nutrition tracking in food pantries. A new version of the WellSCAN App, which allows users to scan the UPC and find the nutritional value of a food item, was tested in several pantries.

Fiscal policy work is led by Tatiana Andreyeva (Associate Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics). In February 2025, Andreyeva developed tax revenue estimates that informed CT legislation (HB 7273) on potential revenue from a sugary drink tax in CT. She also provided tax revenue estimates to several states and localities considering sugary drink taxation.

Food marketing work is led by Fran Fleming-Milici, PhD (Assistant Research Professor, Rudd). In May, Fleming-Milici and the Hispanic Health Council completed the first year of a two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a project that takes a citizen science, community-based approach to engage youth as full partners in food marketing research. Researchers collaborated with ReadyCT to recruit 5 adolescent citizen scientists from Hartford Public High School, provide weekly training sessions to the students, and help them lead focus groups and collect food marketing data at their school.

Healthy school environment work is led by Marlene Schwartz. In January 2025, the Rudd Center team launched a new version of the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) website.

The WellSAT helps school districts assess both their written wellness policies and the implementation of specific practices. Over 5,200 unique users have visited the new website and over 1,200 individual assessments have been created. The Rudd Center also continued its collaboration with UConn's CSCH and the Neag School of Education on its CDC-funded project to support the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community Model (WSCC). As part of this project, 19 school and district wellness teams from across CT were convened for a free day of professional development and school wellness training.

Weight bias work is led by Rebecca Puhl (Professor, Human Development and Family Sciences). In FY25, Dr. Puhl gave the Keynote Mason Lecture at the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery national conference in Washington, DC. Dr. Puhl's presentation centered on eliminating stigma and ensuring equitable, comprehensive care for all people living with obesity. Additionally, Dr. Puhl continued working with Eli Lilly to develop evidence-based resources for "[Supportive Obesity Care](#)" - a website Rudd developed to educate healthcare providers about weight stigma and provide strategies to ensure respectful and supportive care for people of all body sizes.

InCHIP Staff



Tricia Leahey, PhD
Director



Caitlin Caspi, ScD
Associate Director



Steven Jagielo
Director of Administration
& Business Services



Michelle Bates
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Melanie Skolnick
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Melissa Stone
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AnnMarie White
Grants Manager

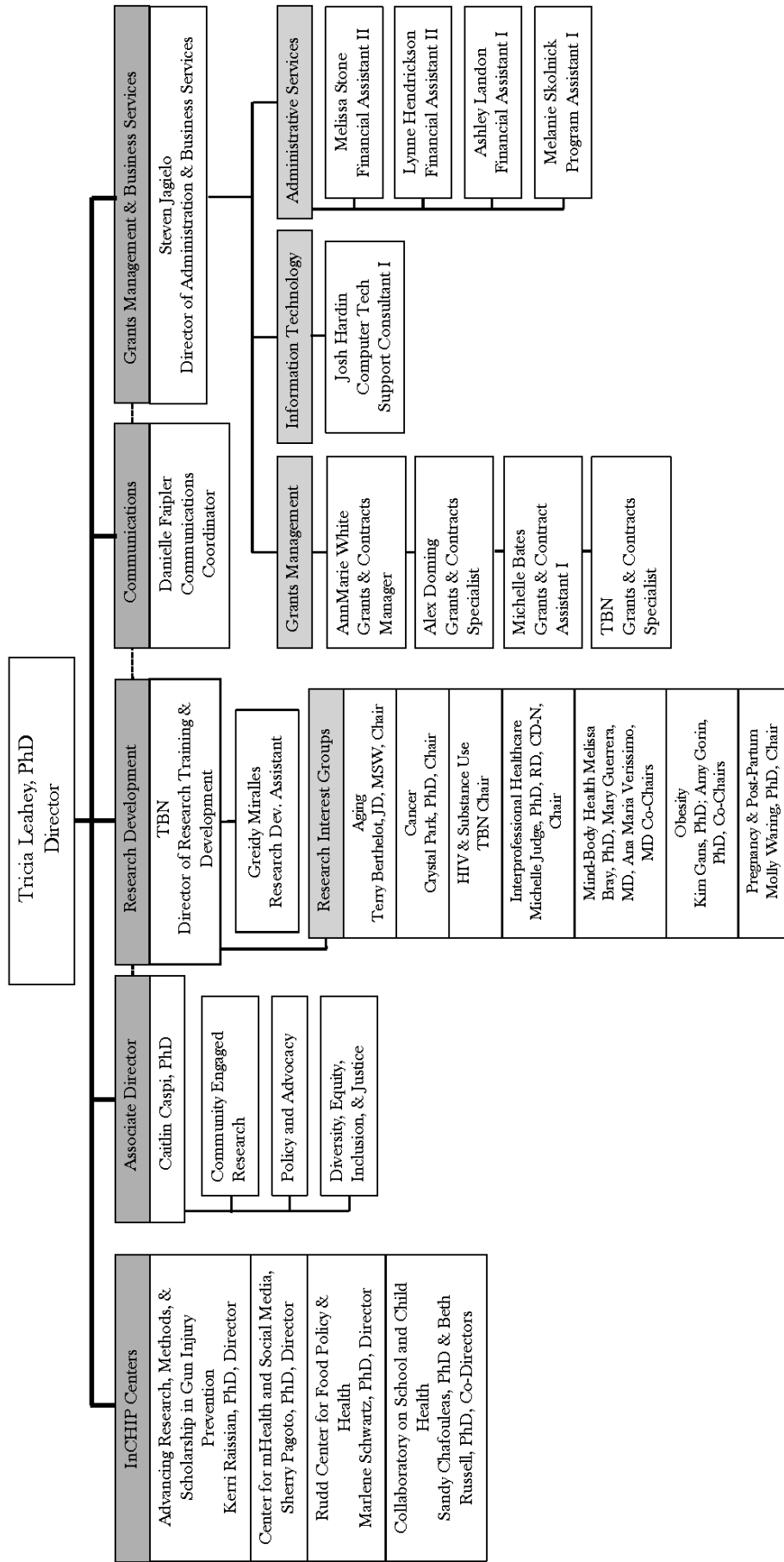


APPENDIX

I. Organizational Chart

II. InCHIP Managed Grants

Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy (InCHIP)



APPENDIX 1: InCHIP FY24 Newly Awarded and Active Grants (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

APPENDIX 1: InCHIP FY25 Newly Awarded and Active Grants (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY25 Direct Costs Awarded	FY25 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY25 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Acabchuk, Rebecca	CHIP	\$19,990	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.8	03/01/21	12/31/25	Mind and Life Institute	Assessing Feasibility and Acceptability of Integrated Mindfulness Programs in Schools: Case Study Evaluation of the Mindfulness Director Initiative
Andreyeva, Tatiana	AGRE	\$71,017	\$9,898	\$2,791	\$12,689	3	09/30/22	09/29/25	TUFTS/ USDA	USDA RIDGE Partnership for Food and Nutrition Assistance Research
Andreyeva, Tatiana	AGRE	\$403,304	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	06/01/23	09/04/24	CT DPH/ DOT	Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Obesity-Related Factors in Young Children
Andreyeva, Tatiana *	AGRE	\$80,927	\$70,371	\$10,556	\$80,927	.6	05/01/25	11/30/25	Univ. Of Illinois/ Chicago	State-Funded Universal School Meals: How Household Food Spending and Purchases Respond
Bellizzi, Keith	HDFS	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	02/01/24	01/31/25	CT Breast Health Initiative	Double Jeopardy? Social Determinants of Health and Accelerated Aging in Breast Cancer Survivors
Bellizzi, Keith *	HDFS	\$161,000	\$50,000	\$30,500	\$80,500	2	12/01/24	11/30/26	NIH/ NCI	Exploring Cumulative Social Determinants Burden, Cancer, and Accelerated Aging: The Role of Physical Activity as a Moderator
Bulled, Nicola	CHIP	\$96,104	\$14,068	\$3,658	\$17,726	5	08/15/22	06/30/27	Kaiser Permanente Northern California/ NIH	Assessing Syndemics of Cardiovascular Disease in People with and without HIV
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$1,610,605	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	09/01/21	12/31/25	DOD	Enhancing Lethality of Female Warfighters by Increasing

APPENDIX 1: InCHIP FY25 Newly Awarded and Active Grants (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY25 Direct Costs Awarded	FY25 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY25 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
										Resiliency to Repetitive Days of Intense Exercise in the Heat
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$1,600,000	\$363,636	\$36,364	\$400,000	3	04/01/22	03/31/26	National Football League Foundation	Team Up for Sports Safety (TUFSS)
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$1,959,872	\$418,724	\$255,421	\$674,145	2	09/19/23	09/29/25	DOD Supplement	Optimizing Customized, Precision Heat Acclimation Protocols to Enhance Performance and Readiness of Female Warfighters
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$145,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	07/1/23	12/31/24	Milwaukee Tool	Milwaukee Helmet Tool Fan Study
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$1,820,112	\$378,332	\$230,783	\$609,115	3	01/1/22	09/30/25	DOD	Optimizing Customized, Precision Heat Acclimation Protocols to Enhance Performance and Readiness of Female Warfighters - SUPPLEMENT
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$137,623	\$39,404	\$13,791	\$53,195	.45	6/15/23	09/06/26	Delta	Delta Heat Safety Assessment
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$433,043	\$109,669	\$38,384	\$148,053	.45	6/15/23	12/31/26	UPS	UPS Heat Safety Project #1
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$49,681	\$0	\$0	\$0	.6	02/01/24	12/31/24	Delta	Delta: KSI Bump Cap Study
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$49,388	\$0	\$0	\$0	.1	10/2/23	08/31/25	Vigilife	Assessment and Validation of Heat Strain Monitoring System

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Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	05/23/24	05/23/25	Perrigo	Master Consulting and Professional Service Agreement Between Perrigo and the Korey Stringer Institute at University of Connecticut
Casa, Douglas	KINE	\$100,000	\$46,316	\$4,632	\$50,948	2	04/02/24	04/01/26	NATA	Athletic Trainer Location and Services (ATLAS) Project
Casa, Douglas/ Robert Huggins *	KINE	\$164,689	\$42,230	\$10,980	\$53,210	3	08/23/24	08/22/27	Geneva Diagnostics	Genova Diagnostics Athlete Performance Study
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$225,046	\$143,569	\$81,477	\$225,046	1	04/14/25	04/30/26	Beiersdorf	Heat Stress and Dehydration on Skin Response & Resilience
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$174,125	\$113,623	\$60,502	\$174,125	.5	02/18/25	07/31/25	Henry M. Jackson Foundation	Develop Thermoregulatory Response Models to Extreme Temperature Exposures
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$29,886	\$24,905	\$4,981	\$29,886	.9	04/01/15	12/31/25	ColdVentures	ColdVest 2025
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$49,992	\$41,660	\$8,332	\$49,992	.9	04/01/25	12/31/25	Polar Chill	Polar Chill
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$30,000	\$8,333	\$1,667	\$10,000	3	04/01/25	03/31/28	Falmouth Road Race	The Korey Stringer Institute and Falmouth Road Race Research Grant Proposal
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$299,779	\$186,198	\$113,581	\$299,779	1	05/23/25	05/22/26	LiquidIV	LiquidIV
Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$49,903	\$41,586	\$8,317	\$49,903	.6	05/23/25	01/07/26	Epicore	Epicore: KSI Connected Hydration During Heat Acclimation Study

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Casa, Douglas *	KINE	\$10,567	\$8,806	\$1,761	\$10,567	1	05/31/25	05/30/26	Kestrel	WBGH and Heat Index On-site vs. Local Weather Stations Proposal VERSION 2
Caspi, Caitlin	AHSC	\$1,677,054	\$0	\$0	\$0	2.5	08/23/20	03/31/25	NIH/NIDDK	A Natural Experiment Evaluating the Effect of a Minimum Wage Increase on Obesity and Diet-Related Outcome
Caspi, Caitlin	AHSC	\$2,858,488	\$502,229	\$77,576	\$579,805	5	05/01/23	04/30/28	DHHS/ AOA/ ACL	Evaluating the Impact and Sustainability of Enhanced Home-Delivered Meal Program Services on Older Adults
Caspi, Caitlin	AHSC	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.5	07/01/23	12/31/24	Chrysalis Center	Planning Project for Advancing Impact of Chrysalis Center's Food Hub
Cerdena, Jessica *	AN	\$70,800	\$27,987	\$17,072	\$45,059	2	06/01/25	05/31/27	NSF	The Man I Call Dad: Constructing Kinship, Race, and Self Following Unexpected Consumer DNA Results
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$572,850	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	07/01/19	06/30/26	University of Kansas/USED	Enhancing Ci3T: Building Professional Capacity for High Fidelity Implementation to Support Students' Educational Outcomes (Project ENHANCE)
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$609,079	\$119,079	\$0	\$119,079	2	06/18/20	06/17/25	Provost Office	CSCH Foundation Reimbursement 26139
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$17,319	\$0	\$0	\$0	.5	12/14/22	06/17/25	Provost Office	CSCH General -23479
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$522,500	\$247,500	\$0	\$247,500	.5	12/14/22	06/17/25	Provost Office	Principal Foundation - 26155
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$23,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	.38	02/1/23	01/12/25	Provost Office	Hoffman Foundation -26174

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Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$1,924,244	\$425,934	\$61,910	\$487,844	4	07/1/22	06/30/26	US ED	Project EASS-E: Expanding Approaches to School Screening with Equity
Chafouleas, Sandra	ED	\$1,950,000	\$309,203	\$80,797	\$390,000	4	06/30/23	6/29/27	CDC	Connecticut: School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students
Cohen, Rachel *	HDFS	\$422,439	\$115,391	\$11,539	\$126,930	.58	03/31/22	10/31/25	Educare Springfield	Educare Springfield Local Evaluator
Cohen, Rachel	HDFS	\$99,866	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.5	09/30/22	03/29/25	DHHS / ACF	Early Head Start Impacts for African American Children and Families
Cohen, Rachel	HDFS	\$10,364,400	\$2,935,752	\$587,150	\$3,522,902	3	08/23/23	12/31/26	OEC	CT Start Early Intervention Study
Colon-Semenza, Christina	KINE	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	07/1/22	06/30/25	UCHC / NIH / NIA	Peer Coaching to Improve Disease Management through Physical Activity in Older Latinx Adults with Parkinson Disease
Cooksey-Stowers, Kristen	AHSC	\$785,971	\$144,634	\$11,571	\$156,205	5	07/22/22	08/31/27	NIH / NLBHI	Are Food Swamps Linked to Disparities in Ethnically Diverse Parents' Food Shopping Behaviors & Young Children's Diets?: Implications for Policy & Environmental Interventions and Supplement
Cooksey-Stowers, Kristen	AHSC	\$75,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	09/11/23	08/31/26	NIH/NLBHI	Are Food Swamps Linked to Disparities in Ethnically Diverse Parents' Food Shopping Behaviors & Young Children's Diets?: Implications for Policy &

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Cooksey-Stowers, Kristen	AHSC	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	07/01/23	06/30/25	CT Foodshare	Research Partnership between the University of Connecticut and Connecticut Foodshare
Cooksey-Stowers, Kristen *	AHSC	\$39,895	\$36,191	\$3,704	\$39,895	1	02/01/25	01/31/26	RWJF	Identifying Best Practices to Eliminate Stigma, Discrimination, and Racism Within the Food Banking System
Copenhaver, Michael	AHSC	\$947,740	\$175,507	\$14,041	\$189,548	5	07/15/20	06/30/25	NIH/NIDA	Optimizing HIV Prevention Among Opioid-Dependent Persons
Copenhaver, Michael	AHSC	\$2,799,889	\$474,859	\$83,301	\$558,160	4.8	09/1/22	06/30/27	NIH/NIDA	Optimizing Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Targeting People who Inject Drugs on PrEP
Copenhaver, Michael	AHSC	\$1,462,149	\$348,870	\$9,084	\$357,954	4	07/01/23	06/03/27	NIH// NIDA	Optimizing Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Targeting People who Inject Drugs on PrEP - SUPPLEMENT
Cornman, Deborah/ Russell, Beth	CHIP	\$239,303	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	11/15/22	09/30/24	Waterbury/ DOJ	Expansion of Waterbury Warm Hand-Off Program (WHOP) to Prevent Opioid Overdose
Denes, Amanda *	COMM	\$161,000	\$50,000	\$30,500	\$80,500	2	07/08/24	06/30/26	NIH/ NCI	Couples' Communication about Sexuality when Facing Metastatic Breast Cancer
Duffy, Valerie *	AHSC	\$3,136,562	\$333,999	\$86,839	\$420,838	3	10/01/18	09/30/27	DSS/USDA/FNS	School and Family-Based SNAP-Ed - RENEWAL
Duffy, Valerie / Lerner, Jaclyn	AHSC	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	07/01/21	08/31/25	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation	Acceptability and Usability of Tailored Messaging and Goal Setting on Short-Term Dietary

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										and Oral Health Behavior Change in Children
Duffy, Valerie / Killion, Kate	AHSC	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.5	07/01/23	02/01/26	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation	Refinement and Preliminary Efficacy of Tailored Messaging and Goal Setting on Short-Term Dietary and Oral Health Behavior Change in Children
Eaton, Lisa	HDFS	\$2,945,558	\$391,751	\$93,738	\$485,489	4.8	05/15/21	03/31/26	NIH/NIDA	Stigma and Substance Use as Barriers to PrEP Linkage, Uptake, Adherence, and Persistence among BMSM
Eaton, Lisa	HDFS	\$227,388	\$26,182	\$15,970	\$42,152	5	04/01/23	01/31/28	SDSU/ NIH/ NIDA	Estimating Mediation and Moderation Effects in HIV Care Continuum Intervention Trials for People who Use Drugs
Egbert, Amy	PSYC	\$975,280	\$181,931	\$14,554	\$196,485	5	09/15/22	08/31/27	NIH / NIDDK	Examining Loss of Control Eating in Black Adolescents with Overweight/Obesity: The Role of Social Contexts and Racial Discrimination
Egbert, Amy *	PSYC	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	1	07/01/24	06/30/26	American Psychological Association	An Intersectional Examination of Eating Behaviors, Weight, Pain, and Sociocultural Factors among Youth with Sickle Cell Disease
El-Krab, Rene *	PSYC	\$132,073	\$1,300	\$0	\$1,300	3	01/26/22	01/25/25	NIH/ NIMH	A Novel Intersectional HIV Stigma Measure in South Africa
Fein (Berger), Deborah	PSYC	\$58,993	\$13,341	\$8,138	\$21,479	3	04/1/23	03/31/26	Oregon Health & Science University/ NIH/ NIMH	Parent Training for Latinx Autistic Toddlers: Development and Preliminary Testing
Fein (Berger), Deborah *	PSYC	\$34,040	\$15,082	\$1,676	\$16,758	2	01/01/25	12/31/26	OSHU/ KUNI	Opt-in Early: Rural Oregon

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Fleming-Milici, Frances	CHIP	\$499,998	\$228,974	\$24,867	\$253,841	2	05/01/24	04/30/26	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Community-Engaged Research with Hispanic and Black Youth to Address Targeted Unhealthy Food Marketing
Gans, Kim	HDFS	\$168,213	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	03/07/22	02/28/26	Brown/ NIH/ NIDDK	Testing a Multilevel, Multicomponent, Multigenerational Dietary Intervention to Improve Southeast Asian Children's Diets
Gans, Kim	HDFS	\$366,295	\$37,650	\$22,967	\$60,617	5	03/8/23	02/29/28	Brown/ NIH/ NICHD	Strong Families Start at Home/Familias Fuertes Comienzan en Casa: A Novel Video and Motivational Interviewing Intervention to Improve Diet Quality of Low-Income, Ethnically Diverse Children
Gans, Kim	HDFS	\$153,610	\$32,097	\$19,579	\$51,676	3	07/01/23	03/31/26	Brown / NIH/ NIDDK	Healthy Start: An Innovative, Multi-Level Intervention with Family Child Care Providers and Families to Improve the Dietary Behaviors of Preschool Children
Ghosh, Debarchana	GEO	\$200,000	\$40,145	\$8,029	\$48,174	4	01/1/23	12/31/26	Univ. of Maryland/ ACS	Multi-Level Drivers of Cancer Disparities Impacting African Americans
Ghosh, Debarchana	GEO	\$727,313	\$88,416	\$53,934	\$142,350	5	09/24/23	05/31/8	Univ. of Maryland/ NIH	Multidimensional Structural Racism and Moderating Role of Psychosocial Resources on Cancer-Control Behaviors in African Americans

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Gibbons, Frederick	PSYC	\$3,229,043	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	08/02/18	07/31/24	NIH/ NCI	Contextual and Health Behavior Effects on Epigenetic Aging Among African Americans
Gibbons, Frederick	PSYC	\$333,143	\$0	\$0	\$0	4	08/01/19	07/31/24	NIH/ NCI	Contextual and Health Behavior Effects on Epigenetic Aging Among African Americans – SUPPLEMENT
Gibbons, Frederick	PSYC	\$24,642	\$3,076	\$1,876	\$4,952	3	06/01/22	04/30/27	UGA/ NIH	Stress, Weathering, and Blood-Based Biomarkers of Alzheimer’s Disease: A Longitudinal Study of Low Income, Aging African Americans
Glaviano, Neal	KINE	\$1,499,995	\$268,465	\$92,880	\$361,345	4	07/01/22	06/30/26	DOD	Optimizing Clinical Outcomes for Patients with Patellofemoral Pain Using Strength Training Rehabilitation Incorporating Power Exercises (STRIPE)
Gnall, Katherine/ Park, Crystal	PSYC	\$90,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	06/1/23	05/31/25	NIH/ NCCIH	Examining Interoceptive Awareness as a Mechanism of Change in Yoga for Chronic Low Back Pain
Goetz, Jared	AHSC	\$93,504	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	06/01/22	05/31/25	NIH/ NIDDK	The Relationship Between High and Low Arousal Affect and Dietary Temptations and Lapses in Daily Life
Gombi-Vaca, Maria	CHIP	\$274,889	\$125,206	\$15,025	\$140,231	2	11/15/23	11/14/26	RWJF	Development and Evaluation of a Technical Assistance Intervention to Improve Implementation of Nutrition Standards in the Charitable Food System

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Gorin, Amy	PSYC	\$3,390,109	\$474,863	\$189,776	\$664,639	5	05/15/22	04/30/27	NIH/ NIDDK	Optimizing a Couples-Based mHealth Intervention for Weight Management
Gorin, Amy	PSYC	\$19,695	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	03/10/22	02/28/25	VCU/ NIH	Exploring Ripple Effects in Untreated Family Members of Adolescents in Obesity Treatment
Gorin, Amy	PROV	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	3	01/31/23	01/30/26	CT Board of Regents for Higher Education	University of Connecticut Health Horizon Proposal
Gorin, Amy	PROV	\$35,398	\$6,136	\$3,743	\$9,879	3	08/07/23	07/31/25	UFL/ NIH / NHLBI	A Pilot Feasibility Study of Digitally Delivered Modules Focused on Preventing the Development of Obesity During the First Year of Life within an Existing Statewide Home Visitation Program
Johnson, Blair	PSYC	\$1,500,931	\$239,677	\$146,203	\$385,880	5	05/01/22	02/28/27	Brown/ NIH / NCCIH	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: An Implementation Science-Informed Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Kaufman, Cecilia	KINE	\$2,477	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	05/19/24	05/18/25	NATA	Perception of Employers Regarding Athletic Trainers within the Occupational Setting
Kalichman, Seth	PSYC	\$151,676	\$10,261	\$6,260	\$16,521	5	09/28/19	11/30/24	UCLA/NIH / NCCIH	Effectiveness of a CBT-Based mHealth Intervention Targeting MOUD Retention, Adherence and Opioid Use
Kalichman, Seth	PSYC	\$2,955,496	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	11/3/19	11/30/25	NIH/ NIMH	Dose Determination Trial for Implementing Evidence-Based Behavioral Interventions

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Kalichman, Seth	PSYC	\$3,044,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	4.9	12/16/19	11/30/25	NIH/ NIMH	Intervention to Improve HIV Care Retention and Antiretroviral Adherence in Stigmatized Environments
Kalinowski, Jolaade	HDFS	\$56,126	\$0	\$0	\$0	2.2	8/7/22	11/30/24	NYU/ NIH/ NIMHD	Telephone-Based Mindfulness Training to Reduce Blood Pressure in Black Women with Hypertension in the Jackson Heart Study
Kalinowski, Jolaade	HDFS	\$118,979	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.7	6/9/23	2/29/24	Brown/ NIH/ NCCIH	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: An Implementation Science-Informed Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Kalinowski, Jolaade *	HDFS	\$806,499	\$150,000	\$12,000	\$162,000	5	08/15/24	07/31/29	NIH/ NHLBI	Proof of Concept Trial of a Mindful Walking Intervention for Black Women with Hypertension
Kinsey, Steven	NUR	\$335,755	\$113,070	\$68,973	\$182,043	4.7	01/01/20	08/31/24	SUNY/ NIH/ NCCIH	Minor Cannabinoids and Terpenes: Preclinical Evaluation as Analgesics
Kwon, Oh Sung	KINE	\$672,675	\$124,569	\$9,966	\$134,535	5	03/15/23	02/29/28	NIH/ NIA	The Mito-Frail Trial: Effects of MitoQ on Vasodilation, Mobility and Cognitive Performance in Frail Older Adults
Leahey, Tricia	AHSC	\$3,333,748	\$0	\$0	\$0	4.8	09/23/19	06/30/25	NIH/ NIDDK	Using Behavioral Economic Strategies to Address Obesity in Economically Disadvantaged Adults
Lee, Elaine	KINE	\$1,663,608	\$93,168	\$56,832	\$150,000	4.1	09/26/23	09/25/27	Boston College/ DOD	Smart Paper-Integrated Technologies for Interrogating Readiness (SPITFIRE)

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Lee, Elaine *	KINE	\$100,000	\$83,492	\$16,508	\$100,000	.05	12/01/24	05/30/25	Foothold Labs, Inc.	Biomarker Device Testing and Stress Marker Discovery in Exertional Heat Acclimation
Loken, Eric *	ED	\$70,353	\$22,825	\$1,826	\$24,651	2	08/01/24	07/31/27	Boston College/NIH/ NIGMS	Brain Healthy: Engaging Students in Citizen Science Brain Health and Wellness Investigations to Promote Data Science Literacy
Lombardi, Caitlin	HDFS	\$115,000	\$55,017	\$8,253	\$63,270	2.5	10/01/23	08/31/26	Annie E. Casey Foundation	Support for Elevating Equity Dissemination and Collaboration
Lombardi, Caitlin *	HDFS	\$50,000	\$20,833	\$4,167	\$25,000	2	09/30/24	09/29/26	DHHS/ ACF	Investigating Parent-Provider Relationships in Early Head Start among Latine Families: A Mixed Methods Study
Moody, Raymond	HDFS	\$953,319	\$177,362	\$14,189	\$191,551	5	03/01/24	02/28/29	NIH/ NIDA	Stigma, Drug Use, and HIV Vulnerability among Hispanic and Latino Sexual Minority Men
Pagoto, Sherry	AHSC	\$648,606	\$118,276	\$9,462	\$127,738	5	07/15/20	06/30/25	NIH/ NIDDK	Mentoring in mHealth and Social Networking Interventions for CVD Risk Reduction
Pagoto, Sherry	AHSC	\$2,013,059	\$256,990	\$156,764	\$413,754	5	09/01/23	06/30/28	NIH/ NIDDK	A Non-Inferiority Trial Comparing Synchronous and Asynchronous Remotely-Delivered Lifestyle Interventions
Pagoto, Sherry/Christie Idiong *	AHSC	\$69,569	\$43,210	\$26,359	\$69,569	1	07/01/24	04/29/25	NIH/ NIDDK	A Non-Inferiority Trial Comparing Synchronous and Asynchronous Remotely-Delivered Lifestyle Interventions - SUPPLEMENT

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Park, Crystal/ Starkweather, Angela	PSYC/ NUR	\$3,071,574	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	06/01/20	05/31/26	NIH/ NCCIH	Emotion Regulation as a Primary Mechanism of Action in Yoga Interventions for Chronic Low Back Pain: An RCT Testing Biological and Psychological Pathways
Park, Crystal/ Chafouleas, Sandra/ Hoeft, Fumiko	PSYC/ ED/ PSYC	\$2,431,836	\$0	\$0	\$0	4	02/01/21	01/31/26	NIH/ NCCIH	Network to Advance the Study of Mechanisms Underlying Mind-Body Interventions and Measurement of Emotional Wellbeing
Park, Crystal	PSYC	\$239,971	\$108,250	\$16,238	\$124,488	2	09/01/23	08/31/25	Florida State Univ/ John Templeton Foundation	Examining Fincham and May's Process Model of Seeking and Experiencing Divine Forgiveness
Park, Crystal	PSYC	\$1,371,562	\$297,509	\$154,847	\$452,356	3	09/01/23	08/31/26	NIH/ NIAAA	Isolation and Loneliness Underlying Misuse and Increased Use of Alcohol as a Function of Stress and Coping Efforts
Park, Crystal *	PSYC	\$67,893	\$25,315	\$3,797	\$29,112	3	08/01/24	07/31/27	UPENN/ Templeton Research Trust	Discovering Humanity's Primal Self Beliefs
Pescatello, Linda	KINE	\$561,058	\$74,957	\$45,724	\$120,681	5	09/01/21	08/31/26	Yale/ NIH / NIDA	Stepped Care Trial
Puhl, Rebecca *	HDFS	\$100,111	\$41,015	\$14,355	\$55,370	1	03/03/25	03/31/26	Eli Lilly	Expanding and Updating Educational Content in Supportive Obesity Care
Raission, Kerri/ Dineen, Jennifer	PUBP	\$88,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	01/01/23	12/31/23	John Hopkins/ NCGVR	Examining Lifetime Firearm Exposure: Person-Centered Latent Class Analysis to Explore

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										Behaviors and Attitudes of Unique Profiles of Gun Owners
Raissian, Kerri	PUBP	\$82,708	\$3,600	\$540	\$4,140	2	02/26/24	04/30/26	Arnold Ventures	Special Issue Concerning Gun Violence's Distinct Impact on Women
Raissian, Kerri	PUBP	\$99,865	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	06/10/24	06/30/25	Arnold Ventures	Harms And Benefits Inventory: Wave 2 Data Collection
Raissian, Kerri *	PUBP	\$57,750	\$57,300	\$450	\$57,750	.2	07/09/24	03/31/25	Arnold Ventures	Domestic Violence Prosecution Innovation Day
Raissian, Kerri *	PUBP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	1	11/01/24	03/31/25	ARMS Foundation	ARMS Foundation Reimbursement 23963
Raissian, Kerri *	PUBP	\$72,840	\$63,991	\$8,849	\$72,840	.5	03/06/25	07/31/25	Arnold Ventures	Target Abuser Call Evaluation Planning Grant
Raissian, Kerri *	PUBP	\$30,999	\$28,181	\$2,818	\$30,999	.6	01/01/25	06/30/25	Daily Pay	Survey of Daily Pay Users
Rickles, Nathaniel	PHAR	\$835,205	\$125,032	\$29,909	\$154,941	5	09/30/21	09/29/26	CT DHMAS/SAMHSA	SPF-Rx: Adopt-a-Health District Program
Rickles, Nathaniel *	PHAR	\$160,000	\$99,379	\$60,621	\$160,000	1	03/01/25	09/29/25	CT DHMAS/SAMHSA	Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety Expansion
Sanetti, Lisa	ED	\$1,051,645	\$245,715	\$3,699	\$249,414	5	10/01/20	09/30/25	US Department of Education	Project I3-PREP: Interdisciplinary Preparation in Integrated and Intensive Practices
Sanetti, Lisa	ED	\$3,769,249	\$663,492	\$124,753	\$788,245	5	07/01/21	06/30/26	US Department of Education	Project PRIME2: Planning Realistic Intervention Implementation and Maintenance by Educators

APPENDIX 1: InCHIP FY25 Newly Awarded and Active Grants (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY25 Direct Costs Awarded	FY25 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY25 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Sanetti, Lisa	ED	\$482,150	\$86,610	\$22,519	\$109,129	5	09/01/21	08/31/26	UCHC/ NIH/ CDC	Total Teacher Health: A Total Worker Health Approach to Improving Teacher Mental Health
Schwartz, Marlene	HDFS	\$885,342	\$0	\$0	\$0	6	01/01/17	12/31/24	Horizon Foundation	Improving Nutrition in Howard County: A Strategic Science and Policy Initiative - CONTINUATION
Schwartz, Marlene *	HDFS	\$320,306	\$11,731	\$1,408	\$13,139	9.7	01/06/15	06/30/24	Partnership for a Healthier America	Evaluation of Commitments Made by Child Care Centers with Partnership for a Healthier America - CONTINUATION
Schwartz, Marlene	HDFS	\$216,972	\$27,320	\$16,665	\$43,985	5	09/01/23	08/31/27	MGH/ NIH/ NHLBI	Behavioral Economics to Implement a Traffic Light Nutrition Ranking System in a Network of Food Pantries
Schwartz, Marlene	HDFS	\$49,976	\$15,811	\$0	\$15,811	2	05/13/24	03/31/26	CT SDE/ USDA	Providing Tools and Technical Assistance for Connecticut Triennial Assessments
Schwartz, Marlene *	HDFS	\$99,667	\$90,580	\$9,087	\$99,667	1	09/01/24	08/31/25	Duke/ RWJF	Developing and Validating Assessment Tools to Measure Implementation of the HER Nutrition Guidelines for the Charitable Food System
Schwartz, Marlene *	HDFS	\$215,748	\$93,527	\$32,734	\$126,261	2	09/23/24	09/22/26	CDSE/ USDA	Developing and Implementing a Farm-to-School Policy and Practice Assessment
Schwartz, Marlene *	HDFS	\$273,020	\$116,029	\$17,404	\$133,433	2	11/15/24	11/14/26	RWJF	Updating and Synchronizing National Measures of School Wellness Policies and Practices
Shanley, Ellen *	HDFS	\$135,520	\$45,501	\$0	\$45,501	3	05/01/25	04/30/28	Acad. Of Nutrition and Dietetics/ ACL	Essential Connections: How Improved Referrals from Hospital to Community Meal

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										Provision can Impact Malnutrition Outcomes in Older Adults (CONNECT)
Shook, Natalie	NUR	\$161,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	05/15/23	12/31/25	NIH/ NIA	Decoding Age Differences in Emotional Well-being and Positivity through Everyday Natural Conversations
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$823,183	\$167,964	\$13,437	\$181,401	4.5	01/01/21	06/30/25	NIH/ NIDA	Training in mHealth Prevention with MSM
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$1,283,829	\$202,322	\$91,456	\$293,778	4.5	01/01/21	06/30/25	Fogarty International Center/ NIH	Development and Testing of a Mobile Application to Enhance HIV Prevention Cascade in Malaysian MSM
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$106,307	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.9	04/28/21	03/31/25	Yale University/ NIH/ NIAID	Improving HIV Testing and PrEP for Transgender Women Through mHealth
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$130,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	09/29/21	10/28/24	Gilead Sciences	Integrated Rapid Access to HIV Prevention Program for People Who Inject Drugs
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$717,278	\$178,897	\$47,412	\$226,309	3	07/15/22	05/31/25	NIH/ NIMH	Integrated Online-to-Offline (O2O) Model of Care for HIV Prevention and Treatment among Men who Have Sex with Men
Shrestha, Roman	AHSC	\$99,999	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	06/01/23	05/31/24	NIH/ NIMH	An Online HIV Self-Testing Intervention with Online-to-Offline Linkage to Care for Transgender Women - Supplement
Shrestha, Roman *	AHSC	\$3,438,317	\$600,880	\$172,965	\$773,845	5	07/15/24	04/30/29	NIH/ NIDA	Optimizing a Just-in-Time Adaptive Intervention to Increase Uptake of Chemsex

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										Harm Reduction Services in MSM: A Micro-Randomized Trial
Sosis, Richard *	ANTH	\$48,692	\$20,690	\$3,104	\$23,794	2	07/01/22	06/30/24	University of Otago/ John Templeton	The Evolutionary Dynamics of Religion, Family Size, and Child Success
Srinivasan, Sudha	KINE	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.5	11/01/22	04/30/25	Nat'l Pediatric Rehab Resource Ctr/ NIH	Effects of a Novel, Child-Friendly, Home-Based Training Program Using Joystick-Operated Ride-on-Toys on Affected Arm Function and Spontaneous Use in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy (CP): A Pilot Study
Srinivasan, Sudha *	KINE	\$442,750	\$150,000	\$91,500	\$241,500	2	08/01/24	07/31/26	NIH/ NICHD	A Novel, Child-Friendly, Home-Based Training Program Using Joystick-Operated Ride-on-Toys to Improve Upper Extremity Function in Children with Hemiplegia: A Pilot Study
Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$76,745	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	6/01/21	12/31/25	Italian Tech	Molecular Mechanisms of Osteoporosis and Age-Related Bone Diseases
Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$600,074	\$74,527	\$45,461	\$119,988	5	08/15/22	07/31/27	NSF	CAREER: Unraveling Mechanisms of Mechanical Degeneration in Elastin with a Validated Digital Twin
Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$280,340	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	05/15/23	04/30/26	NIH/ NIA	Multiscale Effects of Aging on Elastic Arterial Tissue Mechanics
Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$257,904	\$143,323	\$87,427	\$230,750	1	10/01/23	08/31/25	Gesinger/ NIH / NHLBI	Collaborative Research to Explore Genetic Variation and Phenotypic Spectrum of Elastin and Related Genes

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Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$3,058,251	\$440,003	\$167,752	\$607,755	5	12/01/23	11/30/28	NIH/ NIA	Multiscale Effects of Aging on Elastic Arterial Tissue Mechanics
Tarakanova, Anna	ME	\$16,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	05/01/24	04/30/25	NSF	Request for REU Supplement
Kokay Valente, Pablo	AHSC	\$112,296	\$27,207	\$16,596	\$43,803	1.4	06/1/23	11/30/25	FSU/ NIH/ NICHD	Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Scientific Leadership Center
Kokay Valente, Pablo	AHSC	\$32,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	10/01/23	03/31/25	Fordham/ NIH/ NIDA	HIV/Drug Abuse Prevention Research Ethics Training Institute
Watson, Ryan	HDFS	\$952,225	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	04/01/19	03/31/25	NIH/ NIDA	PrEP and Substance Use Among Sexual Minority Young Adults
Willen, Sarah	ANTH	\$45,299	\$3,900	\$2,379	\$6,279	3	07/01/22	06/30/25	Brown/ NSF	The Impact of Covid-19 on the Educational and Career Outcomes of First-Generation College Students and their Families
Xu, Ran	AHSC	\$93,741	\$26,710	\$6,945	\$33,655	3	08/16/22	08/15/25	Michigan State University/ US ED	Quantifying the Robustness of Causal Inferences: Extensions and Application to Existing Databases
Xu, Ran	AHSC	\$102,024	\$28,232	\$17,222	\$45,454	3	01/01/24	12/31/26	Viginia Tech/ NSF	RAISE: IHBEM Mathematical and Algorithmic Formulation of Change in Human Behavior in Epidemic Models
Zhang, Na	HDFS	\$931,277	\$171,836	\$13,551	\$185,387	5	05/01/22	04/30/27	NIH/ NIMH	A Digital Mindfulness-Informed Parenting Intervention for High-Risk Divorced Families
Zhang, Na	HDFS	\$53,496	\$37,647	\$3,012	\$40,659	2	02/04/24	04/30/27	NIH/ NIMH	A Digital Mindfulness-Informed Parenting Intervention for High-Risk Divorced Families - SUPP

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	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY25 Direct Costs Awarded	FY25 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY25 Total Costs Awarded				
TOTAL ACTIVE GRANTS AWARD	150	\$105,763,678	\$16,471,811	\$4,444,712	\$20,916,523				

*Indicates that the project was newly awarded or the award received additional funding in FY25

Department:

AGRE	Agricultural and Resource Economics
AHSC	Allied Health Sciences
ANTH	Anthropology
CHIP	Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy
COMM	Communication
ED	Educational Psychology
HDFS	Human Development and Family Sciences
KINE	Kinesiology
ME	Mechanical Engineering
NUR	Nursing
PHAR	Pharmacy Practice
PROV	Provost
PSYC	Psychological Sciences
PUBP	Public Policy

Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy

ANNUAL REPORT FY25

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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