



REQUEST FOR PILOT PROPOSALS

CENTER FOR DEMOGRAPHY OF HEALTH AND AGING

March 4, 2019

Request for Proposals: Deadline April 1, 2019

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging invites interested investigators to submit proposals for pilot funding for 2019–20.

Research Focus

Pilot proposals may be submitted on a variety of research topics. Although we welcome proposals in all areas of aging, CDHA seeks to vary priorities across funding cycles to ensure that funding is channeled in a balanced way to CDHA 'signature' or core areas.

We welcome proposals that focus on:

- Aging and the life course: Attention to linkages between the events of early and middle age, and late life health, social and economic outcomes.
- Determinants of disparities of aging trajectories: including health and mortality, family organization and support.
- Impacts of Place/Geography on health/aging outcomes
- Health Economics/Health Services Research approaches to aging processes
- Biodemography: Health status, mortality, cognitive deterioration, senescence and the role played by gene-environment interactions, epigenetics processes, hormonal dysregulation, and microbiotic changes.

We especially encourage research using the WLS or SHOW data.

Pilot research projects are expected to lead to the formulation of a larger research proposal to be submitted for funding as an R01, R03, R21, or other NIA funding mechanism. Pilots are not designed to support work that is nearly completed or to continue research on already funded projects (unless these, themselves, can lead to additional funding). NIA considers the 'return' rates per pilot awarded when making future Center funding decisions, so we must focus on funding pilots that have a high likelihood of resulting in future proposals to NIH.

Budget

Funds are often used to support a 50% time, 12-month research or project assistant or to provide limited summer support for faculty. An alternative would be to propose a course buyout that supports submitting a grant. Please indicate your budgetary needs as part of the initial pilot proposal.

We also encourage research that both overlaps with CDHA interests and could be co-funded with the RDRC (cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/about-us), which together would allow the possibility of larger budgets (~\$150K).





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Number of Awards

The number of awards we are able to make varies from year to year depending on allocations to CDHA provided by NIA, but we typically fund three projects.

Application Process

Prepare a one-to-two-page proposal with a description of your research idea and your budgetary needs. **Submit proposals to Janet Clear, jclear@ssc.wisc.edu by April 1, 2019.** CDHA Steering Committee members will evaluate and rank the proposals and a final decision will be made by the CDHA director in consultation with the committee. In cases of ties or when a pilot proposal is outside the field of expertise of Steering Committee members, we will seek one or two outside evaluators in consultation with the primary investigator(s). External reviewers will be chosen among researchers in the UW–Madison or those at other universities.

Pilots approved by the committee are then forwarded to NIA program staff for final approval. **Approved pilot projects must provide IRB approval for the project, a budget and justification, and a biographical sketch for the PI before funding will be released.**

Expected Outcomes

Funded pilot projects will be expected to provide (1) a mid-period award progress report, due the last week of February, and (2) a final report, due the first week of October in the year after the pilot is awarded. We also expect to be informed when an NIH application based on the pilot work is submitted, regardless of whether it is during the year of funding or in the future. All publications resulting from pilot-funded research must be submitted to PubMed Central and associated with the Center for Demography of Health and Aging, P30AG017266.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated for (a) connection to the research focus identified above; (b) likelihood that proposed work will result in NIH R01 or other funding within 2 years; (c) likelihood the research will result in important publications with insights into the demography of aging; and (d) credentials of investigators—early investigators are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact:

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