August 31, 2022

Request for Proposals: Rolling Quarterly Deadline, First Consideration July 15, 2022

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging invites interested investigators to submit proposals for workshop funding for 2022-2023.

Research Focus

Workshop proposals may be submitted on a variety of research topics. Although we welcome proposals in all areas of aging, CDHA seeks to prioritize pilots that fit or expand its thematic areas. In addition, workshop applications with the greatest chances of success are those with a vision for future collaborations linked to clearly defined external funding goals and those that support junior faculty and faculty from historically under-represented groups. Workshops that involve faculty from outside of UW (especially those without NIH Population Centers) are encouraged.

We welcome proposals that focus on:

a) Aging and the life course: Attention to linkages between late life health, social and economic outcomes and events in utero, early and middle age.

b) Biodemography: Health status, mortality, cognitive deterioration, senescence and the role played by gene-environment interactions, epigenetic processes, hormonal dysregulation, and microbiotic changes.

c) Determinants of disparities (racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic) of aging trajectories: including health and mortality, family organization and support.

d) Health economics/policy approaches to aging questions: Retirement, health care, etc.

e) Impacts of place on aging processes.

Workshops should be forward-looking and briefly outline the thematic area of interest, key participants at UW and outside of UW as well as future collaborative expectations, and consider possible paths toward external funding of the proposed area (i.e. does NIH focus on this area now or will it in the future?)

Budget

Budgets should represent the needs of the workshop’s planned scope and align with the size of the opportunity for future projects and external support. We anticipate budgets below $15,000, some closer to $5,000, and welcome consideration of co-funding with other UW and/or non-UW units.

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 anticipate 1-2 workshops per year.
Application Process

Prepare a 1-2 page proposal with a description of your workshop idea, your budgetary needs (potential venue, number of participants, key speakers), and anticipated timing of event. Submit proposals to Janet Clear, jclear@ssc.wisc.edu and Jason Fletcher, jason.fletcher@wisc.edu. We will consider proposals on a quarterly basis, with first review on July 15. CDHA Steering Committee members will evaluate and rank the proposals and a final decision will be made by the CDHA Director in consultation with this committee. In cases of ties or when a 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 from among researchers at the UW-Madison or those at other universities.

Expected outcomes
Funded workshops will be expected to provide a final report, due 60 days following the conclusion of the workshop. We also expect PIs to let us know when an NIH application related to the workshop theme is submitted, regardless of whether it is during the year of funding or in the future. Any publications resulting from a workshop (i.e. a summary report) 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 a research focus identified above; (b) likelihood that proposed workshop will lead to a critical mass of work in the area among CDHA affiliates within 2-3 years; (c) likelihood the research stimulated by the workshop will result in important publications with insights into the demography of health and aging; and (d) credentials of investigators – young investigators are encouraged to apply.

Recent Examples:
CDHA supported the UW Health Economics working group’s half-day workshop on opioids (approximate cost <$1000):
CDHA collaborated with CEHD (Chicago) for a 1.5 day workshop on Frontiers in Economic Analysis with Genetic Data. (approximate cost $10,000).

For more information, contact:

Jason Fletcher, jason.fletcher@wisc.edu (Director)
Janet Clear, jclear@ssc.wisc.edu