Request for Pilot Proposals
Center on Aging and Population Sciences (CAPS)

Proposal Deadline: January 22, 2021

We invite investigators to submit proposals for pilot funding to support research projects for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Pilot Project Themes

The overarching mission of the Center on Aging and Population Sciences is to illuminate how biological, psychosocial, and environmental factors intersect and cascade throughout the life course to generate disparities in health and well-being at older ages.

A unifying theme of CAPS research is Health Disparities in Late Life

Proposals will be given priority that address:
- Life course precursors of later life health and well-being
- Family demography, social engagement, and social isolation
- Place and health including neighborhoods, geographic region, and other indicators of place

Proposals must fit the National Institute on Aging emphasis on life course processes to improve the health and well-being of older adults.

Pilot projects should be designed to support the development of a larger research project that will be submitted under an NIA grant mechanism (R03, R01, R21). Pilot projects are not intended to support work to complete a study or as an addendum to an existing project. NIA considers the success rate of grants submitted from the pilot projects when making decisions about funding future CAPS pilot projects.

Budget

Pilot projects may be funded up to the amount of $40,000. Pilot project budgets may be used to cover expenses related to the proposed study (e.g., funds to collect pilot data to ground a larger study) within guidelines for federally allowable expenses. In special circumstances, larger
budgets will be considered. Please email caps@prc.utexas.edu to develop a sufficiently detailed budget for the pilot proposal.

Project time periods are for one year, and all proposed work should be accomplished during that period. Again, this is an important metric in reporting to NIA on the success of our pilot program—information that NIA will evaluate when deciding on the provision of additional pilot project funds for future CAPS projects.

The number of awards we are able to make will vary from year to year depending on allocations to CAPS provided by NIA, but we will typically fund 4 to 5 projects.

Pilot Project Requirements

Proposal
- Description of project 2 pages
  - Specific Aims page
  - Methods section 2 to 3 paragraphs
- Timeline
  - Tasks and goals for the project broken down by quarters.
  - Plan for submitting larger grant to NIA, specifying the mechanism
- Budget
  - Detailed budget
  - Budget justification
- NIH Biosketch

Projects selected for funding will also be required to provide an NIH section on human subjects

- NIH protection of human subjects information including enrollment table
- IRB approval will be necessary by March 30, 2021.

Awarded Project Requirements and Outcomes

Funded projects will be expected to provide 1) quarterly progress reports, 2) an end of year report in the format required by NIA in October of the year after the funding was awarded, 3) updates regarding grant submissions resulting from the pilot project by March 30 in the proceeding 3 years.

PIs from the pilot project program who do not have an established record of funding from NIH will participate in the CAPS Project Proposal Program during the summer in which they receive their pilot support or in a future summer to guide their preparation of a successful proposal to NIA.

All presentations and publications resulting from the pilot project must acknowledge grant P30AG066614 from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and all publications must be submitted to PubMed Central.
Review Criteria

- Topic area: Alignment with CAPS themes
- Potential impact: Extending prior science via conceptual innovation and cutting-edge methodology
- Scientific design: Including conceptual framework, methodology, and measurement
- Feasibility: Timeline and budget appropriate for project goals and design
- End product goals: Presentations, publications, grant submission
- Investigators:
  - Early stage investigators:
    - Track record of publication
    - Strong interest in grant proposal process and intention to submit a proposal
    - Consultants and mentors appropriate for the project
  - Mid-career and senior investigators
    - History of high impact research
    - Funding record
    - Investigative team has high potential for funding from NIA

Timeline

Based on NIA expectations, pilot project investigators must meet several deadlines pre and post award. The deadlines for the proposal, review, execution of the study, and post award deliverables are provided below.

**Proposal writing**
- December 10, 2020: Proposal process presentation
- January 22, 2021: Proposals due

**Review process**
- Early February 2021: CAPS Faculty Council Review
- February 15, 2021: Revisions due on proposals selected to go forward
- Early March 2021: External Advisory Board review
- March 30, 2021: IRB and enrollment tables due for selected projects
- May to June 2021: NIA approval process

**Award deadlines**
- Summer 2021: Project proposal program for new investigators
- July 2021: Study start date
- September 30, 2021: IRB approval needed if required
- January 15, 2022: 1st quarterly report
- March 30, 2022: 2nd quarterly report
- March 30, 2022: PRRP formatted report due
June 30, 2022 Final report due
Summer, 2022 CAPS administrative support for grant proposal submission provided

Post Award Requirements

Fall 2023 Publications and grants submitted
March 30, 2023 Updated report on pilot project outcomes
March 30, 2024 Updated report on pilot project outcomes
March 30, 2025 Updated report on pilot project outcomes

Proposal information presentation and Q&A session December 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. CST.
Zoom link: https://utexas.zoom.us/j/94966547570

Proposal due date January 22, 2021
Submit proposals to caps@utexas.edu,
Subject: Attn: Pilot Project Proposal.

Selection criteria include:
Fit with CAPS themes

The UT Austin CAPS Faculty Council will review proposals in early February
Upon their recommendation, 4 or 5 proposals will go forward to an External Advisory Committee comprised of experts in demography and aging at other universities.

The PIs selected will have an opportunity to revise their proposals between the UT Steering Committee Review (early February) feedback and submission to the External Advisory Committee (late February).

Projects selected by the External Advisory Committee must receive final approval by NIA Coordinating Center staff prior to receiving funding.

Funding is anticipated to begin July 1, 2021

For more information, contact:
Karen Fingerman, kfingerman@austin.utexas.edu
Debra Umberson, umberson@prc.utexas.edu