

## **Request for Pilot Proposals**

### **Center for Demography of Health and Aging**

December 7, 2015

#### **Request for Proposals**

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging invites interested investigators to submit proposals for pilot funding for 2016-2017.

#### **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:

- a) Aging and the life course: Attention to linkages between the events of early and middle age, and late life health, social and economic outcomes. This theme has evolved jointly with the growth of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey (WLS). It is now an independent area of research that encompasses diverse social settings and multiple data sets (including three partially or totally hosted at UW-Madison, MIDUS, SHOW, SABE, PREHCO, and MHAS);
- b) Determinants of disparities (ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic) of aging trajectories: including health and mortality, family organization and support. This theme is a sub-theme of (a) above;
- c) Comparative international studies of population aging: with emphasis on the biodemography, social and economic aspects of aging in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC).
- d) Social and economic aspects of aging: Focusing on (i) intrafamily transfers; retirement and labor force participation, social security and private retirement schemes; (ii) responses to and economic costs of acute late life episodes including spousal death, terminal illnesses, economic recessions, child illnesses and disability. Both (i) and (ii) are also subthemes of (a) and overlap with (b); and
- e) Biodemography: Health status, mortality, cognitive deterioration, senescence and the role played by gene- environment interactions, epigenetics processes, hormonal dysregulation, and microbiotic changes.

Pilot research projects are expected to lead to the formulation of a larger research proposal to be submitted for funding as an R03, R01, or other NIA funding mechanism. Pilots are not designed to support work that is about to be 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 can generally be used to support a 50% time, 12 month Research Assistant or Project Assistant or to provide limited summer support for faculty. Please indicate your budgetary needs as part of the initial pilot proposal.

## 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. In 2015-2016, we made four awards, each consisting of not more than the equivalent one 50% one year RA.

## Application Process

Prepare a 1-2 page proposal with a description of your research idea and your budgetary needs. Submit proposals to Janet Clear, [jclear@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:jclear@ssc.wisc.edu) by February 1, 2016. Four CDHA Steering Committee members will evaluate and rank the proposals and a final decision will be made by CDHA Director in consultation with this 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.**

## Timetable

April 21: Submit 1-2 page proposal  
May 1: Notification of funding decisions; request for IRB approval and biographical sketch for submission to NIA  
Sept 1: Budget start date

## 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 you to let us know 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 – young investigators are encouraged to apply.

**For more information, contact:**

Pam Herd, [pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu)  
Janet Clear, [jclear@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:jclear@ssc.wisc.edu)