



Penn's Center for Improving Care Delivery for the Aging (CICADA)

A Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) at the University of Pennsylvania

<https://ldi.upenn.edu/cicada>

Request for Pilot Research Proposals

**Applications are being accepted for 1-year Pilot-Project Awards of up to \$30,000
for the project period 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020**

Penn's CICADA, the [Center for Improving Care Delivery for the Aging](#), is Penn's NIA-funded Resource Center for Minority Aging Research ([RCMAR](#)). CICADA seeks to enhance the diversity of the aging research workforce by mentoring promising scientists from under-represented groups for sustained careers in aging research addressing social, behavioral, and economic questions, particularly issues that pertain to minority older adults. Those awarded 1-year pilots through this mechanism will become CICADA RCMAR Scientists and will receive additional career development support as needed through CICADA. See [FAQ](#) to learn about the full set of resources available to CICADA RCMAR Scientists.

Penn's CICADA will emphasize interdisciplinary sciences that provide an evidence base central to addressing issues of care quality, access, affordability, and/or equity. Broadly, the collection of the sciences is referred to as Health Services Research (HSR), but it includes disciplines such as economics, sociology, anthropology, statistics, communications, business, law, and others.

If you have any questions about the center or this RFA, please contact us at CICADA@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

Who Should Apply: Applications are being accepted from post-doctoral researchers and junior faculty who are underrepresented in research. This includes (1) MD and MD/PhD clinical fellows who have completed their residency, (2) PhD postdoctoral trainees, and (3) MD/PhD, MD, and PhD junior faculty [instructors or assistant professor for <3 years] who are underrepresented based on the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity (NOT-OD-15-053) definitions, including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Trainees must be committed to developing new research skills in health research focused on aging. The affiliation of applicant can be from any University. This program is not limited to those with Penn affiliations.



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Resources Available to Awarded Pilot Projects: Three (3) one-year pilot project awards are available. The maximum funding available per pilot project is \$30,000. Pilot funds can support salary, research expenses, travel, equipment, and/or supplies as appropriate to the project.

Focus of Pilot Projects: Support will be given to pilot research projects that are consistent with the goal of CICADA, which is to train emerging scientists from underrepresented backgrounds as it applies to the most pressing issues for aging Americans, particularly minority elders. Projects that leverage the data in the CICADA data core will be given priority. More details on the CICADA data core are available [online](#). The proposed pilot project should lead to publication of at least one first-authored, peer-reviewed manuscript plus subsequent funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), particularly the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

Review Criteria for Pilot Projects:

- Quality and rigor of proposed research
- Relatedness of proposed research to CICADA's focus
- Likelihood that proposed research would lead to subsequent NIH-funded projects, particularly NIA-funded projects
- Credentials and promise of investigator in aging-related research

Application Timeline:

1. **By 12pm noon March 1, 2019**, applicants must submit application [HERE](#).
2. **By April 1, 2019**, candidates will be notified if they have been selected to prepare and submit proposals and supporting documents.
3. **By June 1, 2019**, selected candidates must submit proposals with supporting documents including IRB approval, human subjects training, enrollment reporting, and other requested materials.
4. The full proposals and supporting documents will be forwarded to the NIH/NIA for final approval. The award will then be dispersed after **July 1st, 2019**.

Application Submission and Required Documents: Applicants must complete and submit the following required documents by **12pm noon, March 1, 2019**:

1. Complete the required online application form on the [CICADA website](#)
2. Upload the following required documents on the [CICADA website](#)
 - A. **A synopsis describing the proposed pilot project.** The synopsis must be single-spaced in Arial font with 11-point typeface, one-inch margins, on 8.5"x11"-size page, limited to a maximum of two pages and must include:
 - i. Title of project



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- ii. Description of proposed pilot project including study aim(s) and a brief description of the design and data to be used in the pilot project
- iii. A statement about how the proposed pilot project is related to the CICADA goals
- iv. A brief timeline that documents the feasibility of completing the pilot project in one year
- v. A specific statement about how this pilot project will inform the applicant's future research and how it will lead to larger funding by the NIH/NIA or another agency
- vi. A description of the applicant including their role on the project, career objectives, and how CICADA support would help achieve those objectives
- vii. Proposed mentor(s) and a statement about their involvement and the role they will play in conducting the pilot project. If applicants need assistance in identifying a mentor for their proposed project, please contact CICADA at CICADA@penmedicine.upenn.edu by **February 1, 2019**.

B. Budget and budget justification

C. Applicant's current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

D. All Mentor's and/or senior key personnel's (s') NIH Biosketch in the current format.

Please contact CICADA@penmedicine.upenn.edu with any questions.