



## REQUEST FOR PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS

<https://rdar.unl.edu>

The Rural Drug Addiction Research (RDAR) Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for pilot funding through an NIH/NIGMS grant. The RDAR Center is dedicated to understanding the causes and impacts of rural drug addiction and its related challenges and harms. The RDAR Center's long-term research mission is to better understand and mitigate rural drug addiction and its personal and social harms by linking pre-clinical studies to field-based behavioral, neural, social, and clinical research. Center-sponsored projects will range from the microscopic world of the synapse in human biology to the social and geographical environments in which drug use interventions take place, exploring rural drug addiction from synapse to society.

To support Center projects, RDAR is founding the Longitudinal Networks Core Facility (LNC). The LNC will recruit and retain a cohort of rural drug users (the Rural Health Cohort) from which RDAR projects will regularly collect data. This will lay the groundwork for long-term Center infrastructure that allows RDAR researchers to lead efforts to address specific challenges raised by drug addiction in rural settings and develop appropriate interventions for those settings. The Rural Health Cohort (RHC) will provide a five-year longitudinal surveillance of 600 participants. The RHC will begin by screening for active drug use and recruitment will take place via peer referral. The RHC will also utilize mobile technology, to capture responsive Ecological Momentary Assessment (rEMA) data with the Open Dynamic Interaction Network (ODIN) cellphone software. ODIN will track the social network interactions of RHC participants and allow investigators to ask questions of study participants during the course of their day regarding both internal thoughts and emotions, and external activities, locations and relationships.

The goal of the RDAR Center Pilot Program is to provide support to emerging scholars and promising research projects to acquire preliminary data necessary to apply for and obtain external federal funding. Successful applicants will receive up to \$50,000 in direct costs for 1-2 year projects, as well as access to resources of the Center for professional development and project support.

**Relevant Areas of Research:** This mechanism aims to support innovative, collaborative research that either uses the resources of LNC/RHC or engages in pre-clinical research with clear implications for human clinical application on the issue of rural addiction. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 preference areas have been identified:

- Work with the LNC and/or use the RHC longitudinal data, or
- Employ ODIN software in addiction-related research, or
- Contribute to basic science of addiction
- Contribute to the understanding of rural approaches in drug addiction treatment

Priority will be given to those projects most likely to lead to successful extramural funding. In addition, projects that make an impact on addiction-related treatment access, underrepresented minority and/or rural populations, and can introduce or evaluate new tools or technologies useful in addiction recovery—are of high interest. For questions on if your research would qualify for Center support, please contact Devan Crawford, [dcrawford3@unl.edu](mailto:dcrawford3@unl.edu).

## **Letter of Intent Submission**

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A Letter of intent is required prior to submission of the pilot grant application. Letters of intent should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11 font). The letter of intent should be submitted in a PDF format and sent by email to [dcrawford3@unl.edu](mailto:dcrawford3@unl.edu). Letters must be received by 5pm CST on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Late letters will not be accepted.

- NIH Biosketch for Senior/Key Personnel (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- Project Summary (limited to 30 lines or less of text)
- Two-Page LOI Document including the following headings:
  - Study Title
  - Specific Aims
  - Significance and Scientific Premise:
  - Approach:
  - Investigators:
  - Anticipated Impact:
- References (not included in 2-page count).

Letter of Intent Review: Letters will be reviewed by the RDAR Center Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee, a body of scholars with representation across clinical, translational, bench, and social sciences. Letters will be evaluated for their significance and scientific merit. Highest priority will be given to projects aligning with identified preference areas, those demonstrating scientific rigor, and those most likely to lead to successful extramural funding. Those invited to submit full applications will be notified by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Full applications will be due September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The RFA and requirements for invitees are detailed below. Please email your LOI and NIH biosketch as a single PDF document to Devan Crawford at [dcrawford3@unl.edu](mailto:dcrawford3@unl.edu) or 402-472-2243.

## **Full Application Submission Process**

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Only investigators who have submitted the required letter of intent and have been invited to submit a full proposal are eligible. Second year funding is contingent on favorable review by the RDAR Center Leadership Team on project progress; scientific integrity; rigor of project; potential for Center synergy; and potential for successful external funding. Full applications should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11 font). The full application should be submitted in a PDF format and sent by email to [dcrawford3@unl.edu](mailto:dcrawford3@unl.edu). Applications must be received by 5pm CST on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Full Application must include the following components:

1. A Curriculum Vitae
2. A One-Page Personal Statement (career goals and vision for center involvement)
3. A small grant R03 style proposal including.
  - NIH Face Page* (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>).
  - Project Summary* (limited to 30 lines or less of text)
  - Specific Aims* (1 page)
  - Research Plan:* (5 pages)
    - Significance
    - Innovation
    - Approach
    - Broader Impacts
  - References* (not part of the page limits)
4. *Budget* (use attached budget template)
5. *Budget Justification*
6. *Protection of Human Subjects Section* (if applicable)
7. *Inclusion of Women & Minorities and Inclusion of Children* (if applicable)
8. *Vertebrate Animals Section* (if applicable)

**Full Application Review:** The Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee will review all applications, using the NIH review criteria (*Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment*), modified as appropriate for this Pilot grant program. Three reviewers will provide critiques on each application. The Overall Score will also include considerations, including topic foci; relevance to the RDAR Center mission; inclusion of other IDeA institutions and COBRE facilities; and the potential for impacting addiction and related harms. The IMAC will suggest ranking to the RDAR Center Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will make recommendations for funding, which will be forwarded to the External Advisory Committee and NIGMS for Final Approval. IMAC members cannot review applications from their departments or receive pilot grants. Finalists will be notified the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November and required to obtain all regulatory approvals prior to NIGMS review.

## **Special Considerations, Institutional Approvals, and Reporting**

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**Budget Restrictions:** Faculty effort is not allowed and faculty salary support is not allowed. Student/post-doctoral stipend is not allowed but student/doctoral salary/wages are permissible. Wages for technical personnel are permissible. Equipment (>\$5,000 per item) is not allowed. Renovation and/or Honorariums are not allowed. Travel is limited to research related tasks only (e.g., no conference travel). Travel to locations outside of the US, Puerto Rico, & Canada is not allowed. Provided all regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, NIGMS) have been obtained, funding will be made available to your institution on March 1, 2020.

**Indirect Costs (F&A):** Indirect associated with pilot grants will be awarded to the investigator's institution for NIH-funded pilots. *Please work with your Sponsored Programs office to ensure that your proposal budget includes your institution's correct F&A rate.* Additional pilot funds may be contributed by partner institutions, rather than NIH, and these institutionally designated awards will not include indirect costs.

**Clinical Trials:** If your project meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial, you must check "Yes" to the clinical trial question on the NIH face page. If you answer "YES" to all four questions below, your project is considered a clinical trial.

- a. Does the study involve human participants?
- b. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
- c. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
- d. Is the effect being evaluated as a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

For additional information, visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm>

**Regulatory Approvals:** If your project includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, your institutional IRB or IACUC (respectively) approval is required before funds can be released. Protocols must be submitted to IRB for approval within 30 days of notification of funding and final approval sent to us within 90 days.

**Additional Requirements:** Pilot project grant recipients must participate in Center Enhancement and Programmatic Activities. Pilot recipients will be required to provide Twice Annual Project Updates at Monthly Center Meetings. Pilot recipients must submit written annual progress reports [standard NIH - RPPR Sec 6 A-H]

**Eligibility and Eligible Institutions:** Current full-time faculty at a participating institution are eligible to apply. Participating institutions include the University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and University of Nebraska at Omaha. Individuals must be eligible to apply for NIH funds (i.e. US citizen or a permanent resident). Individuals not currently receiving funds from another RDAR Center mechanism are eligible to apply.

<b>BUDGET (DIRECT COSTS ONLY)</b>	FROM	THROUGH
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List PERSONNEL (*Applicant organization only; no faculty effort nor faculty salary support is allowed*)

Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project

Enter Dollar Amounts Requested (*omit cents*) for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mnth	Acad. Mnths	Summer	INST.BA SE	SALARY REQUESTS	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
<b>SALARY &amp; FRINGE SUBTOTALS</b> →								

CONSULTANT COSTS

SUPPLIES (*Itemize by category*)

TRAVEL (*only what is necessary to perform research; no conference or training travel*)

OTHER EXPENSES (*Itemize by category*)

CONSORTIUM/SUBAWARD COSTS (*Include subaward F&A as a direct cost*)

**SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS** (*Item 7a, Face Page*)

\$

Institutional F&A Rate:

FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

**TOTAL COSTS FOR PROJECT** (*Item 7b, Face Page*)

\$