

**Request for Pilot Proposals**  
**Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America**  
**Due Date: Friday, October 14, 2022 @ 5:00pm EST**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America (NLCHDD), funded by the National Institute on Aging, invites interested researchers to submit pilot proposals that have the potential to better understand how US adult health and mortality outcomes are shaped by multiple (e.g., state and local) contexts simultaneously.

**RESEARCH FOCUS**

Health and mortality among middle-aged and older adults differ markedly across geographic areas of the United States. Pilot projects funded by the NLCHDD in recent years have examined why these outcomes differ across state contexts or across local contexts. This year the NLCHDD seeks proposals that will examine how multiple contexts jointly shape health and mortality of midlife and older adults. Examining multiple contexts is essential because it 1) reflects the reality that people are embedded in multiple contexts, each having independent or synergistic effects on adult health and mortality, 2) can identify appropriately targeted strategies and interventions. Proposals might examine, for example, how state policy contexts affect adult health in rural versus urban counties; or how the relative importance of different contexts on health changes across the life course and differ by gender, race/ethnicity, and SES. The NLCHDD is seeking proposals that will advance science in this important area and to lead to fundable grants. Given the complexity of this year's research focus, and the likely need for collaboration, the funding for this year's pilot proposals is greater than previous years.

**THE NLCHDD**

Now in its ninth year of operation, the NLCHDD is a research network funded by the National Institute on Aging that promotes population research dedicated to understanding health dynamics and disparities in the United States. The network is led by Jennifer Ailshire (University of Southern California), Sarah Burgard (University of Michigan), Robert Hummer (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill), and Jennifer Karas Montez (Syracuse University). It includes seasoned and emerging investigators from universities around the country. This coming year, our focus will be on how multiple geographic contexts jointly influence disparities and trends in adult health and mortality. We are soliciting pilot projects in that area of focus.

**FORMAT OF PROPOSALS**

Cover page with title and investigator's name and an abstract that clarifies the value of the research; NIH Face-Page (Form Page 1); NIH biosketch for all key personnel; a PHS 398 budget page and budget justification; plus 3-page proposal covering specific aims, significance, innovation, and research design/methods. Proposals using human subjects will need institutional IRB approval before funding is awarded. **Note: When calculating total requested budget, IDC amount is part of the total budget and should be included on the budget form on the line that says "Consortium/Contractual Costs – Facilities and Administrative Costs."** Investigators may request total (direct + indirect) costs in the range of \$35,000 - \$50,000, **with a limit of 8% on indirect costs (IDC)**. Funds can be used for research assistance, salaries, travel, data acquisition, etc. Principal Investigators must hold a PhD. We expect to make 2-3 awards.

### Additional Requirements:

- Subcontracts are not allowed.
- Proposals must be submitted to and approved by the Principal Investigator's office of sponsored research and be signed by an institutional official to be considered for review.
- PI's must be affiliated with a US university.

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** Please submit proposals as a single PDF file by Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to Kathy Forrest at [agingnetwork@syr.edu](mailto:agingnetwork@syr.edu).

### **TIMETABLE**

- October 14, 2022: Proposals due to Kathy Forrest at [agingnetwork@syr.edu](mailto:agingnetwork@syr.edu)
- Week of October 31, 2022: Notification of decisions and request for IRB approvals.
- December 15, 2022: Estimated earliest start date after receipt of IRB approval.

Duration of Pilot Projects: Until June 30, 2023. Projects may request a 2-year duration, ending June 30, 2024; however, pilot funding for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, is contingent on NIA's continued funding of the NLCHDD. For 2-year projects, we will not be granting an extension after the 2-year period. See the FAQs page for information about timing:

<https://gero.usc.edu/nlchdd/pilot-projects/>

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Proposals will be evaluated for: (a) the quality of the proposed research; (b) contribution to the NLCHDD topic for the year; (c) likelihood that proposed work will result in K99/R00, K01, R03, or R01 funding within 2 years; (d) likelihood the research will result in important publications with insights into population health; (e) credentials of investigators. Early stage and under-represented investigators are especially encouraged to apply.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** Awardees are required: 1) to give a brief overview of your project and fully participate in the NLCHDD annual meeting on the Saturday afternoon/evening and Sunday (April 15-16, 2023) after the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in New Orleans, LA; (2) to present the findings from your project at the NLCHDD annual meeting on April 20-21, 2024, the Saturday/Sunday directly following the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Columbus, OH; (3) to participate in future NLCHDD annual meetings and activities; (4) to produce a written report upon completion of the project. Subsequent outcomes—such as resulting proposals, research funding, and publications—must also be reported to the NLCHDD. All research resulting from the pilot grant must credit NIA grant **R24AG045061**. All publications stemming from the work must be submitted to PubMed Central.

### **For more information about scientific issues, please contact:**

Jennifer Ailshire, University of Southern California ([ailshire@usc.edu](mailto:ailshire@usc.edu))

Sarah Burgard, University of Michigan ([burgards@umich.edu](mailto:burgards@umich.edu))

Robert Hummer, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill ([rhummer@email.unc.edu](mailto:rhummer@email.unc.edu))

Jennifer Karas Montez, Syracuse University ([jmontez@syr.edu](mailto:jmontez@syr.edu))

### **For more information about administrative and budget issues, please contact:**

Kathy Forrest ([agingnetwork@syr.edu](mailto:agingnetwork@syr.edu))