

**University of Southern California's Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related
Dementias Resource Center for Minority Aging Research
(USC AD/ADRD RCMAR)**

Supported by Grant Number P30AG043073 from the National Institute on Aging

Request for Letters of Intent and Research Proposal
Funding will support three pilot grants
Grant Award Period: 07/01/25 to 06/30/26
\$40,000 total costs (Max 8% F&A)

About USC AD/ADRD RCMAR:

The USC AD/ADRD RCMAR has successfully offered research and career mentorship, pilot award funding, one-on-one data and programming consulting, and other training and educational programming to junior investigators conducting research on minority aging and AD/ADRD. We bring a distinct capacity for integrating theories and tools from myriad disciplines, including but not limited to economics, sociology, and gerontology, using large, complex datasets. We apply rigorous panel data and quasi-experimental methods to generate innovative AD/ADRD disparities research. Our interdisciplinary faculty has the support and expertise to advance research in our focus area: **pathways through which social, behavioral, environmental and economic factors, as well as policies and health systems, affect disparities in the risk of AD/ADRD and impact the health, healthcare, and economic outcomes of people living with dementia.** For the past 11+ years we have continued to build on our successful history and bring together the infrastructure, leadership, interdisciplinary expertise and resources.

Who Should Apply:

We invite applications from scholars in the early stages of their research careers, including postdoctoral fellows, tenure-track, and research-track faculty, from academic and research institutions. We encourage both USC and non-USC applicants who are interested in conducting research on the health and economic wellbeing of minority elder populations, with a specific focus on cognition and/or Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease related dementias. We particularly encourage applications from new investigators who are underrepresented in their respective [fields](#). Three early career investigators, referred to as 'RCMAR Scientists,' will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Quality of proposed research
- Credentials of the investigator
- Relevance of proposed research to the USC AD/ADRD RCMAR mission
- Likelihood that proposed research will lead to subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA) proposal
- NIH Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) and Disclosure (for USC applicants) certified
- USC applicants must also complete their Grants Management Training

Application Process:

Step 1: Letter of Intent (LoI) Submission

By COB **Friday, February 21, 2025**, applicants should submit a current CV and 2-page Letter of Intent (LoI) that includes the following information:

- A current Curriculum Vitae (CV) including.
 - Full Name, ORCID number, Non-institutional Email Address, Home Address

*The information you provide about yourself is confidential and used for NIH reporting only. By answering you will help USC and federal agencies gather information on participation in this program and help ensure equitable access for all.

- Number of existing first & last authored publications
- Number existing NIH-funded grants as key personnel
- Page 1: Profile Info:
 - Local faculty mentor's name, title, email and institution (if not from USC)
 - *Pilot demographic characteristics:
 - Gender identity
 - Ethnicity
 - Race
 - Other [underrepresented](#) populations in scientific workforce including but not limited to [female economists](#)
 - Disability Status
 - (Optional) Add one or two sentences answering the question: How do you (as an [individual](#)) diversify the labor force?
- Page 1: Project Description:
 - Title
 - Overall goal of the pilot study
 - Specific aims
 - Study design
 - Data collection or source (indicate if primary or secondary data collection)
 - Identify the minoritized research population(s) you are analyzing
- Page 2: Mentor (if not from USC), Availability and Impact
 - A statement indicating:
 - The expertise of your proposed secondary mentor (if not from USC) as it relates to your study
 - Whether you received prior NIH RCMAR funding, if you are applying this cycle to any other RCMAR Centers and which one(s).
 - Availability to participate in monthly 1-hour Scientist meetings and annual Spring conference in the Greater Los Angeles area
 - Availability for regular virtual or in-person meeting with mentors and Analysis Core leaders
 - How does your pilot:
 - Focus on behavioral, psychological, social, and/or economic research on [health disparities](#) in older adults and ADRD?
 - Inform your future decisions to apply for NIH funding? Please note which grants you see yourself applying for, post award? Use the [FOA](#) link for reference

LOI & CV Submission: By COB Friday, February 21, 2025:

- Emma Aguila, PhD., MPI, USC AD/ADRD RCMAR
- Attn: Briana Taylor, USC AD/ADRD RCMAR
- Email: brianawh@usc.edu
- Subject: 2025/2026 USC AD/ADRD RCMAR Pilot Application - [Your Full Name]

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Step 2: Final Proposal Submission (For Awardees subject to NIA approval)

On or after Monday, March 3, the applicants selected to receive pilot awards will be notified to submit a brief proposal following NIH PHS-398 forms to brianawh@usc.edu (see [NIH PHS-398 Forms](#)). The proposal submission deadline is **COB Friday, April 4, 2025**, and should include the following components:

- Face Page
- Description, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, etc.
- 2-page Project Summary, including:
 - Abstract
 - Broad, long-term objectives
 - Specific aims
 - Description of the research design, data, and methods
- Detailed Budget and Justification for Budget Period
- Biographical Sketch (format as per [Helpful Guide](#))
- Facilities & Resources
- Detailed Research Plan:
 - Research Strategy (*Significance*, Innovation, Measures, Approach)
 - In *Significance*, be sure to answer the following questions:
 - Is your pilot relevant to social, behavioral, psychological, and/or economic research on AD/ADRD?
 - Does your pilot align with the 2019 NACA BSR Review [Committee Report](#) or with the NIA's [Strategic Directions for Research](#), 2020-2025?
 - Timeline
 - Statement indicating how study advances research career objectives
- Checklist
- Human Subjects and Clinical Trial certifications, including HS Study Record or Delayed Onset Record
 - If applicable
- Human Subjects (CITI) & IRB approval or pending approval

Step 3: Award Notification

On or after Monday, July 1, 2025, or as soon as USC AD/ADRD RCMAR is notified by NIH of the Notice of Grant Award, all applicants will be notified of their award status.

Leadership: **Julie Zissimopoulos** (MPI), Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and Director, Center for Advancing Sociodemographic and Economic Study of AD/ADRD; **Jennifer Ailshire** (MPI), Professor, USC Gerontology and Associate Dean of Research; **Emma Aguila** (MPI), Associate Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy; **Maria Aranda**, Professor, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work; **Karen Lincoln**, Professor, UCI Environmental and Occupational Health; **Mireille Jacobson**, Associate Professor, USC Gerontology and; **Eileen Crimmins**, University Professor, USC Gerontology and Director, USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health

For questions contact Briana Taylor, brianawh@usc.edu, or call 213-821-7968

For further information about USC's AD/ADRD RCMAR, access <https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/research-program/minority-aging-health-economics-research-center/>

Embedded Resources

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National Equity Frameworks:

- NIH Health Disparities Framework - www.nia.nih.gov/research/osp/framework
- The National Institute on Aging Health Disparities Research Framework Paper –
 - Hill CV, Pérez-Stable EJ, Anderson NA, Bernard MA. The National Institute on Aging Health Disparities Research Framework. Ethn Dis. 2015 Aug 7;25(3):245-54. doi: 10.18865/ed.25.3.245. PMID: 26675362; PMCID: PMC4671408.
- Populations Underrepresented in the Extramural Scientific Workforce - <https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>
- Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering - <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21321/report/field-of-degree-women#:~:text=7%2D1.-,Economics,-Although%20women%20earned>

NIH Pilot Application Documents:

- Fillable Individual PHS 398 Forms - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Funding Opportunities - <https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/grants-funding/announcements>

National Aging Research Reports:

- 2019 National Advisory Council on Aging Behavioral and Social Research Review Committee Report - <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/2019-BSR-Review-Committee-Report-508.pdf>
- 2020-2025 National Institute on Aging: Strategic Directions for Research - <https://www.nia.nih.gov/about/aging-strategic-directions-research>