

REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS (SPRING 2023) OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES AND DEPARTMENTS



The Rural Drug Addiction Research (RDAR) Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for funding that is open to all disciplines. Applicants must be full-time faculty in the University of Nebraska system who are eligible for NIH funding. There are no disciplinary, department, or college restrictions for applicants and this announcement is not limited to investigators with prior experience in substance use research. RDAR supports applying related expertise in relevant areas to issues of substance use and misuse. **Institutional and/or cross-department collaboration is highly encouraged.** Successful applicants must link their proposal idea to the Center's mission and/or the focus areas described below.

Center Mission and Research Focus Areas

RDAR's *mission* is to advance research across the basic and health sciences to address the etiology, assessment, prevention, and treatment of substance use and misuse. The Center's scientific and creative activities operate at a range of scales -- from synapse to society. Interdisciplinary and data-centric by design, the Center links preclinical studies to field-based behavioral, neural, social, clinical, and translational research and dissemination. Towards its mission, the RDAR Center has several notable **focus areas** including:

1. Supporting basic inquiry on behavioral, social, and/or biological factors contributing to or protecting against drug use, misuse, and addiction. Research and creative activities in this area should consider the unique factors that impact rural populations in Nebraska and the Great Plains.
 - Examining the basic science of substance use to inform future research with regional populations
 - Exploring contemporary and historical narratives of community and cultural experiences related to drug use, including the creative representation of voices and experiences
 - Expanding current work in related disciplines to investigate issues related to substance use and misuse
 - Engaging in prevention or intervention with a focus on underrepresented and/or rural populations
2. Utilizing custom cellphone, tablet, and simulation-based technologies available through the Longitudinal Networks Core (LNC). These tools can rapidly capture fine-grained contextualized data about dynamic social networks and forecast the evolution of individuals' attitudes and behaviors under social influences over time. See <https://rdar.unl.edu/lnc-software> for more details.
 - Employing LNC technology for primary data collection on topics related to the Center's mission
 - Extending the capability of LNC technology and/or advancing data-analytic capacity of LNC tools
3. Using secondary data or recruitment resources from the Longitudinal Networks Core (LNC). The LNC has collaborated with the Bureau of Sociological Research for three years of expanded data collection through the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS), select modules are now available for secondary analysis. Additionally, the LNC's Regional Health Cohort (RHC) provides access to longitudinal data on attitudes, behaviors, and social networks from persons who use drugs through 6-9 month interviews and responsive ecological momentary assessment (rEMA). The RHC also provides access to a Participant Pool of individuals who have agreed to be contacted for other Center-affiliated research. See <https://rdar.unl.edu/regional-rural-health-cohort> for more details.
 - Extracting scientific knowledge from RHC secondary data and/or existing secondary data from the NASIS in substance use-related research
 - Expanding the use of the RHC Participant Pool for recruitment into related research studies

The goal of the RDAR Pilot Program is to provide support to emerging scholars to conduct promising research and creative activities that advance the Center's mission. Successful applicants may receive up to \$50,000 in direct costs for two-year projects. Budget requests are limited to \$25,000 in direct costs per year. One-year pilot projects of \$25,000 are allowed. Pilot Project Investigators will also receive access to resources of the Center for professional development and project support. For questions on whether your proposal idea fits the mission or focus areas of the RDAR Center, please contact Devan Crawford at dcrawford3@unl.edu.

Special Considerations, Institutional Approvals, and Reporting

Indirect Costs (F&A): Current pilot funds are being contributed by partner institutions and units, rather than NIH, and these institutionally designated awards do not include indirect costs.

Regulatory Approvals: If your project includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, your institutional IRB or IACUC 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 the RDAR Center within 60 days.

Clinical Trials: If your project meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial, check “Yes” when answering the clinical trial question on the NIH face page. See <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm> for more information.

Budget Restrictions: Faculty effort can be supported for up to 0.5 person months. There must be a strong rationale why this work cannot be done within the existing faculty apportionment for research, scholarship, or creative activities. 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 proposal-related tasks only (e.g., no conference travel). Travel to locations outside of the US, Puerto Rico, and Canada is not allowed. **Provided all regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, EAC, NIGMS) have been obtained, funding will likely be made available on July 1, 2023.**

Additional Requirements: Pilot Project Investigators must participate in Center Enhancement and Programmatic Activities. Second year funding is contingent upon favorable review by the RDAR Leadership Team concerning project progress; participation in Center activities; scientific integrity; rigor of project; potential for Center synergy; and potential for successful external funding. Pilot Investigators will be required to provide project updates, twice annually, during monthly Center Business Meetings. Pilot Investigators must submit written annual progress reports [standard NIH - RPPR Sec 6 A-H, https://grants.nih.gov/sites/default/files/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf].

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 receive NIH funds. Individuals not currently funded by another RDAR mechanism are eligible. Current Project Leaders and members of the Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee (IMAC) cannot receive pilot funds.

Application Submission Process

Application documents should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11-point font), with a July 1, 2023 start date. The full application should be submitted as a single PDF file through the RDAR Pilot Project NURamp module. **Applications must be received by 5:00 pm CDT on March 20, 2023.** Late applications will not be accepted. The PDF application must include the following sections (in this order):

1. A Mini-R03 Style Proposal including:
 - a) *NIH Face Page* (available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)
 - b) *Project Summary* (limited to 30 lines of text or less)
 - c) *Specific Aims* (1 page)
 - d) *Research or Creative Activities Plan* (5 pages; the following headers must be included)
Significance, Innovation, Approach, Environment, Broader Impacts (related to RDAR’s mission)
 - e) *References* (not a part of the page limit)
2. Budget Justification and Detailed Budget Page
 - a) *Use the included budget template and provide a budget page and justification for each year’s request*
3. NIH Biosketch for Senior/Key Personnel (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
 - a) *In the personal statement, describe your vision for Center involvement*
4. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable)
5. Inclusion of Women & Minorities and Inclusion of Children (if applicable)
6. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)

Application Review: Two to three reviewers will be assigned to each application. Reviewers will use the NIH review criteria (*Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, Environment*), modified as appropriate for this request for applications. Additional information on the NIH review criteria can be found at the following website: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm>. The *Overall Impact* score will also include consideration of topic foci, relevance to the RDAR mission and focus areas, inclusion of other IDeA institutions and COBRE facilities, the potential for understanding substance use and misuse, and broader impacts. Based on these reviews, the Leadership Team will make recommendations for funding by May 1st. Applicants will be notified by email at this time. These recommendations will be forwarded to RDAR’s External Advisory Committee (EAC) for review after all regulatory approvals are obtained.

RDAR PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION BUDGET PAGE TEMPLATE (INCLUDE DIRECT COSTS ONLY)	FROM	THROUGH
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PERSONNEL

Use Calendar, Academic, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project
Enter Dollar Amounts Requested for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits (*Omit cents*)

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mo	Acad. Mo	Sum. Mo	INST. BASE	SALARY REQUEST	FRINGE BENEFITS	PERSON. TOTAL
SALARY & FRINGE SUBTOTALS →								

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

CONSULTANT COSTS (<i>Itemize by expense</i>)	
SUPPLIES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)	
TRAVEL (<i>Include only what is necessary to perform research; no conference travel</i>)	
OTHER EXPENSES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)	
CONSORTIUM/SUBAWARD COSTS	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL	\$
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR PROJECT YEAR	\$