REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS
OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES AND DEPARTMENTS
(SPRING 2024)

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 <u>not</u> 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 <u>must</u> 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 understand the etiology, prevention, and treatment of substance use and misuse. The Center's scientific and creative activities operate from synapse to society. Interdisciplinary by design, the Center links preclinical studies to 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.
   - Exploring contemporary and historical narratives of community and cultural experiences related to drug use, including the creative representation of voices and experiences.
   - Examining the basic science of substance use to inform future research with regional populations.
   - 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. Using secondary data, recruitment resources, or software from RDAR's Research Core, the Longitudinal Networks Core (LNC). Please contact the LNC at lnc@unl.edu to learn more about these opportunities.
   - Utilizing Secondary Data from the LNC to investigate new research questions or areas of inquiry.
     - 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. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG1VFCGLZWk&feature=youtu.be for more details.
     - The LNC has collected responsive ecological momentary assessment (*r*EMA) data from a subsample of RHC participants that is now available for secondary analysis.
     - The LNC has also collaborated with the Bureau of Sociological Research for four years of expanded data collection through the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS). Select modules are now available for secondary analysis.
   - Utilizing the RHC Participant Pool as a recruitment resource for new data collection opportunities. See https://rdar.unl.edu/regional-rural-health-cohort for more details.
   - Utilizing LNC software for innovative data collection or creatively applying or extending these technologies for a new purpose. See https://rdar.unl.edu/lnc-software for more details.

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

<u>Regulatory Approvals</u>: 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 have been obtained, funding will likely be made available on July 1, 2024.**

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.

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 (either through RDAR or another IDeA-mechanism) and members of RDAR's 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, 2024 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 February 15, 2024.** 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

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 *(Itemize by expense)*	
SUPPLIES *(Itemize by category)*	
TRAVEL *(Include only what is necessary to perform research; no conference travel)*	
OTHER EXPENSES *(Itemize by category)*	
CONSORTIUM/SUBAWARD COSTS	

OTHER DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL	$

TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR PROJECT YEAR	$