

Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging

Pilot Grant Proposal Instructions

For the Award Period 2026 - 2028

<https://populationsciences.berkeley.edu/ceda/grants/>

These instructions apply to both Emerging Scholar and Innovation pilots

- *Emerging Scholar pilots will be due April 1 of each year.*
- *Innovation pilots can be submitted anytime and will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year.*

Proposals should be about two to four pages single-spaced (not including references, budget, and human subjects details).

Please include all of the following information in your proposal:

1. Identifying Information

Identify the lead investigator, collaborating investigators, and the departments or units they represent. Contact information must be included for all investigators.

2. PI Status: If you are an early career researcher (generally within 10 years of terminal degree), please indicate your NIH ESI/NI status.

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/training/nia-new-and-early-stage-investigators>

3. Title of Proposal

4. Brief Aims and Background

List specific aims. Provide a brief background and purpose of the project including its significance, innovation, and relevance to NIA/CEDA priority research areas.

5. Description of Activities

Provide a description of the specific activities.

6. Prospects for Extramural Funding

Detail how the proposed activities will contribute to the development of a research proposal to outside sponsors, ideally an NIA grant such as R01/R21/R03 funding, but it is allowable to target other funders. Be sure to identify prospective funders and how the proposed research topic fits with their priorities. **Note for Emerging Scholars Pilots: an R-series or K-series grant submission will be required within two years of Pilot Award.*

7. Timeline

Describe the anticipated timeline to accomplish the goals of the proposal. Also, please indicate the timeline for the development and submission of grant proposals for external

funding. Pilots are generally designed to be completed within one year, but a two-year timeline may be requested. **Emerging Scholars Pilots should plan on a two-year timeline which will include the submission of a grant with the support of the Emerging Scholars Mentorship Program.**

8. Budget

Emerging Scholars Pilots: The requested budget for Emerging Scholars Pilots can be between \$25,000 - \$75,000 in direct costs over 1-2 years, inclusive of subawardee indirect costs at 8%.

Innovation Pilots: the requested budget for Innovation Pilots can be anywhere between \$5,000 - \$30,000 in direct costs over 1-2 years (inclusive of subawardee indirect costs at 8%).

Provide a brief explanation of how the requested funds will be spent, based on the activities to be conducted:

- Data acquisition or collection
- Investigator salary (if state-funded faculty, generally limited to only assistant professors)
- Research assistants (including tuition benefits if applicable).

If the proposal is selected, a detailed budget will be required with the help from campus research administration staff.

Due to changes in NIH [foreign subaward policy](#), pilots with foreign subawards will not be able to be funded until further notice. Pilots with foreign consultants are still eligible.

9. Human Subjects

Please indicate if your research involves human subjects. If you already have human subjects approval, please attach the approval letter (or exemption letter if applicable). If not yet approved, please indicate the timing and status of IRB submission and review. It is the obligation of the PI to comply with all campus and government regulations on human subjects research. See <https://cphs.berkeley.edu/review.html> and <https://cphs.berkeley.edu/reviewtypes.html> for more information.

10. Biosketches

Please include the NIH biosketch or CV of all key personnel on the pilot.

Application Format and Process: E-mail the completed proposal to ceda@berkeley.edu. For preliminary feedback on your proposal idea please contact CEDA Director Will Dow (wdow@berkeley.edu).