

**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 3 pilot grants

\$40,000+ total costs (Max 8% F&A) each for academic year 07/01/26 to 06/30/27

Who Should Apply

We encourage applications from **early-career scholars** at USC and non-USC institutions, including:

- Postdoctoral researchers
- Tenure-track faculty
- Research-track faculty

Research Focus: This funding cycle prioritizes pilot studies examining how **social, behavioral, economic, policies, and health systems explain differences** in:

- Risk of AD/ADRD
- Health, healthcare, and economic outcomes of persons living with dementia

All junior scientists investigating minority elder populations in these fields are encouraged to apply.

Selection Criteria

Three early-career investigators (RCMAR Scientists) will be selected based on:

- Quality of proposed research
 - Feasibility the study will be conducted within 12 months
 - Credentials of investigator
 - Relatedness of proposed research to the USC AD/ADRD RCMAR mission
 - Likelihood that proposed research would lead to subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded projects
 - **Note:** Investigators previously funded by other RCMAR centers will not have priority
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Application Timeline

Friday, February 27, 2026 by 5:00 PM PT

Letter of Intent and CV Due

Submit by email to brianawh@usc.edu

Monday, March 9, 2026 (or after)

Selected applicants notified and invited to submit full proposal

Friday, April 10, 2026 by 5:00 PM PT

Full Proposal Due (by invitation only)

Friday, July 1, 2026 (or after)

Award notifications sent (pending USC AD RCMAR receipt of NIH Notice of Grant Award)

How to Apply

STEP 1: Submit Letter of Intent and CV

Due: Friday, February 27, 2026 by 5:00 PM PT

Email your materials to brianawh@usc.edu with the subject line:
"2026/2027 USC-RCMAR Pilot Application [Your Full Name]"

Send to:

Emma Aguila, PhD, Co-Director, USCAD/ADRD RCMAR
Attn: Briana Taylor, USC RCMAR
Email: brianawh@usc.edu

Required Materials:

1. Current CV including:

- Name, email address, home address, telephone number
- 3 Faculty reference contact information
- [NIH Other Support Form](#)

2. One-Page Letter of Intent including:

- Descriptive title of proposed pilot study
- Overall goal of pilot
- Specific aims

- Study design
- Data collection or source (indicate if primary or secondary data)
 - Specify whether you already have access to the data or have worked with it previously
- A brief timeline that documents the feasibility of completing the pilot project within 12 months
- Name(s), title(s), [ORCID number](#), and contact information of potential primary mentor(s)
 - **Non-USC applicants:** List the mentor at your institution who you will work with if the pilot is awarded
 - **USC applicants:** List the mentor you are currently working with or would like to work with
- Statement confirming:
 1. Availability to participate in monthly 1-hour Scientist meetings
 2. Availability to communicate regularly with appointed mentors

Additional Requirements for USC Applicants:

Before submitting your Letter of Intent and CV, USC applicants must complete:

- NIH FCOI certification: [USC COI Training](#)
- diSClose certification: [USC diSClose Portal](#)
- Grants Management Training: [USC Training Portal](#)

STEP 2: Submit Full Proposal (by invitation only)

Notification Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 (or after)

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Due: Friday, April 10, 2026 by 5:00 PM PT

Submit to brianawh@usc.edu using **NIH PHS-398 forms** (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)

Required Components:

1. Face Page
2. Description, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel
3. Detailed Budget and Justification for Budget Period
4. Biographical Sketch ([format guidelines](#))
 - [Helpful Guide](#)

5. Resources
6. [Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Information](#)
 - HS Study Record or Delayed Onset Record
7. **Research Plan (maximum 5 pages)**
8. Checklist
9. Human Subjects (CITI) & IRB approval or pending approval

STEP 3: Award Notification

On or after Friday, July 1, 2026 (or as soon as USC AD RCMAR is notified by NIH of the Notice of Grant Award)

All applicants will be notified of their award status.

About USC AD/ADRD RCMAR

USC AD/ADRD RCMAR's interdisciplinary faculty have the expertise to advance research in **social, behavioral, economic, policies, and health systems explain differences in risk of AD/ADRD, and in the health, healthcare, and economic outcomes of persons living with dementia.**

By increasing the number and scholarly achievements of RCMAR scientists, and supporting infrastructure and resources for producing and disseminating innovative, rigorous dementia research, USC AD/ADRD RCMAR promotes high-quality health research and disseminates information to the public, policy, and scientific communities.

The Center supports over 60 faculty affiliated with 9 schools at USC and is part of an innovative data core that provides robust data and analytic support. The Center maintains data from more than 60 sources, including large-scale administrative, clinical, and survey datasets. Beyond the breadth of data, the Center's true strength lies in the expertise of its core leadership (below) and faculty mentors, who have developed and applied advanced methods to address complex questions about the causes and consequences of dementia. This includes the development of the Schaeffer algorithm for identifying dementia in claims data and the application of cutting-edge causal inference and dynamic microsimulation methods. Together, these resources and expertise equip the Center to support scientists in selecting and leveraging the best data and methodological tools to advance AD/ADRD research.

Core Leadership Includes: **Julie Zissimopoulos** (MPI), Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy; **Jennifer Ailshire** (MPI), Professor, USC Gerontology and Sociology; **Emma Aguila** (MPI), Associate Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public of Policy; **Maria Aranda**, Professor, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work; **Karen Lincoln**, Professor, UCI Environmental and Occupational Health; **Mireille Jacobson**, Professor, USC Gerontology; **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 RCMAR, access:
<https://schaeffer.usc.edu/programs/center-for-health-policy-and-economics/aging-and-cognition/usc-alzheimers-disease-and-alzheimers-disease-related-dementias-resource-center-for-minority-aging-research-usc-ad-adrd-rcmar/>