

University of Southern California's Resource Center for Aging and Dementia Research

[\(USC RCAD\)](#)

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 07/01/27 to 06/30/28

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 and health systems affect dementia risk, care quality and health and economic outcomes of persons living with cognitive impairment and dementia.

Selection Criteria

Three [early career investigators](#) (RCAD Scientists) will be selected based on:

- Quality and feasibility of proposed research
 - Likelihood study will lead to subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded project(s)
 - Qualifications of the investigator
 - Alignment of study to USC RCAD mission
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Application Timeline

Monday, February 8, 2027, by 5:00 PM PT

Letter of Intent and CV Due

Submit by email to brianawh@usc.edu

Monday, March 8, 2027 (or after) - Selected applicants will be notified and invited to submit a full proposal

Friday, April 9, 2027 by 5:00 PM PT- Full Proposal Due (by invitation only)

Thursday, July 1, 2027 (or after) - Award notifications sent

How to Apply

STEP 1: Submit Letter of Intent, Other Support, and CV.

All documents should be in Font Type: Arial Size: 11

Due: Monday, February 8, 2027, by 5:00 PM PT

Email your materials to brianawh@usc.edu with the subject line:
"2027/2028 USC RCAD Pilot Application [Your Full Name]"

Send to:

Briana Taylor, USC RCAD Email: brianawh@usc.edu

Required Materials:

1. Current CV including:

- Name, email address, home address, telephone number
- 3 Faculty reference contact information
- ORCID iD

2. Updated NIH Other Support Form

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/cpos-common-form>
 - Linked to your SciENcv and ORCID iD
 - Tips and FAQ: YouTube tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGyHX85DIcE>

3. 1-2 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 and have worked with it previously
- A brief timeline establishing feasibility of completing the pilot project within 12 months
- Name(s), title(s), [ORCID iD number](#), and contact information of one to two mentors
 - **Non-USC applicants:** List the mentor at your institution with whom 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:
 - Availability to participate in monthly 1-hour Scientist meetings
 - Availability to communicate regularly with mentors
 - Plan to submit a full NIH aging related proposal within 18 months of RCAD funding. If applicable please include NIH RFA link

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 8, 2027 (or after)

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Due: Friday, April 9, 2027 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
 - *USC Applicants please work with Audrey one week before submitting*
4. Biographical Sketch ([SciENCv Interface](#))
 - [Helpful Guide - FAQs](#)
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 Thursday, July 1, 2027 (or as soon as USC RCAD is notified by NIH of the Notice of Grant Award). All applicants will be notified of their award status.

About USC RCAD

The University of Southern California Resource Center for Aging and Dementia Research (USC RCAD) brings a distinct capacity for integrating theories and tools from myriad disciplines

including but not limited to economics, sociology, and gerontology, using large, complex data sets, and applying rigorous panel data and quasi-experimental methods to generate actionable AD/ADRD research. Our interdisciplinary faculty have the support and expertise to advance research in our focus area: *pathways by which social, behavioral and economic factors, and health systems affect risk of AD/ADRD, and affect the health, health care and economic outcomes of persons living with dementia*. We build upon our successful 10-year history and bring together the infrastructure, leadership, interdisciplinary expertise and resources to: (1) increase the number and scholarly achievements of early stage investigators and; (2) develop new, actionable lines of dementia research.

USC RCAD Leadership:

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 Policy; **Maria Aranda**, Distinguished 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 RCAD, access:

<https://schaeffer.usc.edu/programs/center-for-health-policy-and-economics/aging-and-cognition/resource-center-for-aging-and-dementia-research-usc-rcad/>