

**Center for Excellence in Aging
2021-2022 Pilot Grant Request for Proposals**

Aim: To support members across cores of the Center for Excellence in Aging (CEA) and disciplines in collaborating to collect pilot data for projects that advance the mission of the CEA and are likely to lead to an extramural grant to Rush from a foundation, State, or Federal government agency (e.g., National Institutes of Health [NIH], Health Resources & Services Administration [HRSA]).

Eligible Investigators: Applicants must be members of the Rush Center for Excellence in Aging. Applicants must include at least two members from different disciplines, representing the interests of more than one Core. For example, a member from the Research Core might partner with a member of a different discipline from the Older Adult & Family Care Core to conduct a pilot test of an intervention. Co-Primary Investigator structures are strongly encouraged. Junior investigators are strongly encouraged to apply. Trainees are encouraged to participate in the project, but may not be Primary Investigators.

Funds Available: The Center for Excellence in Aging will fund one proposal up to \$25,000.

Proposal Submission: Proposals should be submitted by email to Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD (Erin_EmeryTiburcio@rush.edu) by **May 15, 2021**.

Full Proposal. The proposal text (sections 2-4 below) should be no more than 1,200 words. The proposal for the pilot grant should include the following:

1. **Abstract:** The abstract should summarize the significance of the work, the hypothesis and major objectives, the procedures to be followed to accomplish the objectives, and the potential impact of the work. The abstract can be up to 250 words and is not included in the word limit.
2. **Innovation:** Document the importance and innovation of the project and how it will advance the mission of the CEA.
3. **Project plan:** Provide a clear timeline, roles of investigators, and tasks to be completed within the year, along with a plan for obtaining external funding.
4. **Budget:** Include a brief budget and clear justification for the funds.
5. **Personnel:** Include brief biosketches for key personnel, including qualifications for completing the proposed project (not included in the word limit; NIH format accepted but not required)

Review Process: All proposals will be reviewed by the CEA Review Committee. Decisions on applications will be communicated via email to the Principal Investigator(s) within 30 days of submission, with the project period beginning **July 1, 2021**.

The review committee will take several criteria into consideration during the review process:

- Evaluation of the significance and innovation of the project
- Interdisciplinary collaboration plan
- Capacity of the project team to successfully compete the project within one year
- Applicants who have been actively participating in CEA activities will be given funding priority

On a case-by-case basis, the review committee may request a revision and resubmission of the proposal based on specific criteria identified by the committee.

Reporting and Expectations: It is expected that the investigators will present their findings at quarterly CEA meetings and a professional conference, and publish the results as an abstract, letter and/or article within two years of the date of the award. When discussing the pilot grant work, the investigators agree to recognize the CEA.

Within 90 days of completion of the pilot work, the investigators will send a final report (no more than 750 words) to Dr. Emery-Tiburcio via email attachment. The report should summarize the work accomplished, citations for papers presented at conferences, submitted for peer-review at professional journals, or other publications, and other grants applied for based on the pilot. The report should provide a detailed report of expenditures, including any funds not used.