

**Rush Center for Excellence in Aging
2022-2023 Pilot Grant Request for Proposals**

Aim. To support members across cores of the Rush 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 CEA. 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 CEA will fund one proposal up to \$25,000.

Proposal Submission. Proposals should be submitted by email to Michelle Newman (Michelle_Newman@rush.edu) by **May 27, 2022**.

Full Proposal. The proposal text (sections 2-5 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. **Importance:** Document the *importance* of the project, including and how it will advance the state of knowledge and the mission of the CEA.
3. **Innovation:** Document the *innovation* of the project – what is truly unique about your project.
4. **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.
5. **Budget:** Include a brief budget and clear justification for the funds.
6. **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)

Please note that the CEA is in partnership with the Gerontological Society of America and their [Reframing Aging Initiative](#). It is a long-term social change endeavor designed to improve the public's understanding of what aging means and the many ways that older adults contribute to our society. This greater understanding will counter ageism and guide our nation's approach to ensuring supportive policies and programs for us all as we move through the life course. All language in proposals must be consistent with the attached Reframing Aging Quick Start guide.

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, 2022**.

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

- Evaluation of the importance and innovation of the project
- Interdisciplinary collaboration plan
- Capacity of the project team to successfully complete 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 30 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.

Reframing Aging

Quick Start Guide

Framing is the process of making choices about what to emphasize and what to leave unsaid.

Here's a **quick tour of themes to avoid and alternatives to advance.**

Instead of these words and cues:

“Tidal wave,” “tsunami,” and similarly catastrophic terms for the growing population of older people

“Choice,” “planning,” “control,” and other individual determinants of aging outcomes

“Seniors,” “elderly,” “aging dependents,” and similar “other-ing” terms that stoke stereotypes

“Struggle,” “battle,” “fight,” and similar conflict-oriented words to describe aging experiences

Using the word “ageism” without explanation

Making generic appeals to the need to “do something” about aging

Try:

Talking affirmatively about changing demographics: “As Americans live longer and healthier lives . . .”

Emphasizing how to improve social contexts: “Let’s find creative solutions to ensure we can all thrive as we age.”

Using more neutral (“older people/Americans”) and inclusive (“we” and “us”) terms

The Building Momentum metaphor: “Aging is a dynamic process that leads to new abilities and knowledge we can share with our communities.”

Defining ageism: “Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes.”

Using concrete examples like intergenerational community centers to illustrate inventive solutions

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➤ www.reframingaging.org
🐦 @ReframingAging

The Reframing Aging Initiative is a long-term social change endeavor designed to improve the public’s understanding of what aging means and the many ways that older people contribute to our society. This greater understanding will counter ageism and guide our nation’s approach to ensuring supportive policies and programs for us all as we move through the life course.

For more information, visit www.reframingaging.org