

# Utah Older Americans Independence Center Pilot and Exploratory Studies Application FAQs

## What is the objective?

- The Utah Center on Aging is preparing for an NIA grant submission for a P30 Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) for the next submission date of May 2012. We are requesting applications for pilot and exploratory studies (PES) to be considered for inclusion as part of this grant submission.
  - The OAIC RFP from the most recent application cycle is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-10-003.html>

## Is this the same as the Center on Aging Pilot Grant?

- No. The Center on Aging Pilot Grant program will be announced later this year. For this year only, the Center on Aging Pilot Grant program timeline will be shifted to later in the year to allow this call for proposals to be completed first. (see the timeline below)

## Who can apply?

- Principal investigators must have a regular University of Utah faculty appointment. Center on Aging membership is encouraged, but not required. In addition to junior faculty, senior faculty proposing new initiatives and/or collaborations of relevance to the OAIC theme are also encouraged to apply.

## Are there restrictions on what the pilot and exploratory study (PES) can be about?

- Yes. These applications must pertain to the proposed theme of the Utah OAIC – vascular aging and mobility – and involve the use of one or more of its resource cores (contact Ginger Bair – [ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu) – for the Utah OAIC overview and its resource cores documentation for additional information).

## How much funding is available?

- There are two levels of PES projects:
  1. Standard (\$25 K to \$50K per year direct cost for up to 3 years)
  2. Small (up to \$10K per year direct cost for up to 3 years)

- The following items are *not* generally supported with pilot project funds:
  - Faculty salary
  - Major equipment (greater than \$5,000)
  - Travel not directly needed for the research project (e.g. to attend conferences)

**When will funds be available?**

- Should the Utah OAIC application receive funding on its first submission, funding for the selected PES applications would be available in March 2013.
- PES applicants will be encouraged to apply separately for the Center on Aging’s 2012 Pilot Grant Program. The RFP for these one-year, \$20K pilot grants will be announced by May 2012 with a July 2012 application deadline, and funding of successful applications to begin by Fall 2012. While the Center on Aging cannot guarantee that the successful PES applications will be awarded pilot grant funding, a PES proposal could receive funding as early as Fall 2012 through the Center on Aging.

**I have an idea for a PES but I’m not sure it fits the Utah OAIC theme. May I speak with someone to determine if I should apply?**

- Yes. Questions may be directed to the Center on Aging Executive Director, Dr. Mark Supiano at [mark.supiano@utah.edu](mailto:mark.supiano@utah.edu)

**What are the PES application requirements?**

- Proposals should be no more than 2 pages.
- Proposals should be electronically submitted to Ginger Bair ([ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu)) by close of business on January 17, 2012 as single PDF file with components in the following order.
  1. A cover letter that addresses the following aspects of the proposal:
    - How this research specifically relates to the OAIC theme of vascular aging and mobility and its potential significance or relevance to the field. In addition, if the PI is new to aging research, indicate intentions for future aging-related studies.
    - How the study will utilize proposed OAIC resource cores. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss this with the resource core director(s).
    - How the pilot project results will lead to future independent funding and the specific funding sources that will be targeted (RFAs, agencies and projected submission dates)
    - Relationship that the PI or co-investigators have, if any, with the Center on Aging.
    - Whether the study is proposed as a standard or small pilot study and the expected study duration (1 to 3 years). No budget information will be required at this juncture.

2. PES's Specific Aims and Research Plan – including: a) Significance, b) Innovation, and c) Approach. Additional information including preliminary data may be included in an Appendix – but this should be minimized as much as possible and no more than 1 page.
3. NIH Biographical Sketches for all key personnel

### **What is the PES application review criteria and procedure?**

#### Review Criteria:

- Aging significance and relationship to OAIC theme (including resource core involvement).
- Scientific merit and innovative nature of the research.
- Likelihood the proposed study will lead to peer-reviewed extramural funding.

#### Review Procedure:

- First, members of the OAIC Leadership Advisory Committee will review the applications.
- Second, meritorious applications selected from this first review will be included in a draft of the full OAIC proposal and submitted to a group of external reviewers for their input in mid-March. The applications that will be included in the final OAIC submission will be determined at that time.

### **If my PES application is selected to be included in the Utah OAIC application, will it need further revision?**

- Yes. The final Utah OAIC application page limit for the *entire* PES description is six narrative pages. Therefore, your original two-page application will need to be condensed into no more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page.

### **What is the timeline for both the PES and Center on Aging pilot grant programs?**

- 11/21/11 – PES call for proposals
- 01/17/12 – PES application submission deadline
- Late January – PES first review by Utah OAIC Leadership Advisory Committee
- 03/21/12 – PES final review by external reviewers
- First of April – PES selected applications announced
- End of April – Condensed versions of applications due
- May 2012 – Utah OAIC submission deadline
- May 2012 – Center on Aging pilot grant call for proposals
- July 2012 – Center on Aging pilot grant application deadline
- September 2012 – Center on Aging pilot grant funding