

Emory Roybal Center for Dementia Caregiving Mastery Pilot Awards

PURPOSE:

The Emory Roybal Center for Dementia Caregiving Mastery is one of 4 Roybal Centers specifically focused on development of interventions to improve and support the care provided by family members or friends to persons living with dementia. Our goal is to support both junior and senior investigators across the U.S. to conduct NIH Stage I-III intervention research that will strengthen the context-specific role-mastery of informal caregivers of persons living with a dementing illness, such as Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. The challenges of dementia caregiving are shaped and determined by a variety of factors – types of illnesses; relationships; settings of care; other social determinants of health. Providing masterful care enhances care recipient and caregiver outcomes. Informal caregiving is the key to the quality of life and continued community living of persons living with Alzheimer's disease and similar illnesses.

The Center plans to support, two or more Pilot Project Awards each year, depending on budget capacity. Pilot awards will be awarded in the amount of **\$75,000-115,000 for 12-months (total direct and indirect)**. Projects must be able to be executed within a one-year time-period. Applicants must present a credible plan describing how they will make substantial progress with one year of funding. Carryover of funds may be considered. All awards must be approved by the National Institute on Aging.

ELIGIBILITY:

The pilot awards are for new or established researchers across the U.S. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

For an invitation to submit a full Proposal, applicants should first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI):

1. LOI

- a. Complete the LOI form-[Click here for LOI form](#) or go to emorycaregiving.org
- b. 2-3 pages, not to exceed 4
- c. Within the template, provide date, PI name (s), PI Institution, Working Title of the proposed pilot project
- d. Include a Biosketch for each mentioned investigator
- e. Briefly answer or provide:
 - i. **Target Caregiving Context-What is the mastery situation to which the project is addressed?** Examples include but are not limited to specific challenges related to: illness type or stage; particular or unique family, racial/ethnic, cultural, and social caregiving situations; or other situational or locational (e.g., urban versus rural locations) conditions.
 - ii. **Briefly describe the intervention project you propose:** Indicate what your pilot study aims to accomplish and what it will look like (what are the key activities you'll undertake to accomplish your aims). Pilot research must involve a clinical trial (control conditions

- not necessary) and be feasible within a one-year time period. These projects also should reflect familiarity with the NIH Stage Model for Behavioral Intervention Development (<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr/stage-model-behavioral-intervention-development>).
- iii. **What kind(s) of caregiving mastery does the intervention propose to strengthen or develop?** Describe the area of mastery which your intervention seeks to develop or enhance. The key to successful informal caregiving – and to the preservation of caregiver well-being and the positive quality of life of the care recipient – **is caregiving mastery**, the caregiver’s felt sense of competence and confidence as a caregiver.
 - iv. **Briefly describe how the intervention would work and why it works (mechanism of action):** The innovation must specify a mechanism of action – a theoretical/conceptual basis for the likely effectiveness of the innovation to enhance caregiving mastery.
 - v. **Briefly describe how you will engage your targeted end-user caregiver group:** Proposed projects must reflect the ongoing engagement of the targeted end-user caregiver group in the design, conduct, evaluation, and refinement of the innovation.
 - f. Include a Biosketch for each mentioned investigator (not counted in page limit)

Please submit the LOI form and the biosketch(s) to caregiving.mastery@emory.edu
LOI deadline is midnight Eastern Time, Friday, December 03, 2021.

APPLICATION:

After review of all LOIs, top applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal to be considered for pilot project funding:

2. Project Proposal-Detailed RFA

- a. Cover page with project title, investigators’ names and affiliations
- b. Abstract up to 350 words
- c. 4-5 page proposal (using Arial 11-point font)
 - i. Specific Aims (1 page max)
 - ii. Significance for promoting context-specific caregiver mastery
 - iii. Innovation
 - iv. Preliminary data (if applicable)
 - v. Research Design and Methods (include description of the intervention, study methods, sample size & justification, analytic plan)
 - vi. Potential for future independent funding
- d. Literature Cited (not counted in the page limit)
- e. Human Subjects protections research plan [[NIH guidelinesprotectinghumansubjects.pdf](#)]
- f. NIH biosketch [<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>]. Include biosketches for all investigators
- g. A 1-year detailed budget on Form 4 [[NIH budget_page4.pdf](#)] Not to exceed \$115,000
- h. Total 1-year budget and budget justification on Form 5 [[NIH budget_page5.pdf](#)] signed by an institutional official
 - i. ***Budgets may not exceed \$115,000 (in total direct + indirect costs). The maximum budgeted project period is one year. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs – indirect costs – are allowed at the applicant institution’s approved negotiated rate but must be calculated as part of the total costs (i.e., not to exceed \$115,000). Direct costs should reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.***

- i. PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information 3.0 form:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/rr-fid.html?formId=705>

3. Please submit all materials in one pdf document to: caregiving.mastery@emory.edu

4. Selected Applicant Additional Requirements

- a. Complete NIH Human Subjects Study Form F, including a Data Safety and Monitoring Plan and other required attachments

5. Pilot Grant Recipient Award Requirements

- a. Pilot studies must adhere to IRB, Data and Safety Monitoring, and NIH policies for Data and Resource Sharing
- b. Complete Financial Conflict of Interest assurance and training as outlined under their respective organization's policies.
- c. Register with ClinicalTrials.gov and complete all reporting requirements in agreement with NIA guidelines
- d. Pilot investigators must adhere to the Emory Roybal Center policies and procedures regarding regular contact with a Pilot Core mentor and with Center leaders
- e. Progress reports

The application deadline is midnight Eastern Time, Friday, February 4, 2022.

6. The proposals will be reviewed using an NIH scoring system.

Scoring will address weakness/strengths in each of the following categories:

1. Significance: meaningful caregiving context or situation and promotion of caregiving mastery
2. Investigators
3. Approach: meets requirements for NIA stage clinical trial, identification of mechanisms of action, and ability to detect meaningful effect of intervention based on proposed sample size
4. Environment
5. Feasibility of Completion in one year
6. Competitiveness of Next Submission

Investigators whose applications are to be recommended for support will be notified of their selection by February 23, 2022. At that point, investigators will be asked to collaborate with the Roybal Center Pilot Core in the preparation of additional documents that will be submitted to NIA for project approval on April 1, 2022. Final project approval can be expected by June 1, 2022.

Support for projects external to Emory University will be through a subcontract arrangement with the investigator's institution. Initiation of that arrangement process is contingent on the Center's receipt of the notice of award for the budget year within which the pilot is to take place. It is likely, therefore, that pilot start dates at external institutions will be September 1, 2022.

1. Progress Reports and Return on Investment

Dissemination activities associated with this pilot award will be tracked. A bi-annual and annual progress report will be required and submitted to the Center Co-Directors that describes accomplishments toward the stated aims and the submitted timeline.