



Announcement of the Availability of Pilot Research Project Funds

The Center for Aging and Policy Studies (CAPS), a collaborative effort of Cornell University, Syracuse University, and the University at Albany, invites applications for Pilot Project funds to support projects that will be completed during the period July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024; this is the fourth year of the current CAPS award from the National Institute on Aging.

Due date for applications: January 27, 2023.

Who is eligible: Support is available to current affiliates of CAPS and to any faculty at the participating universities who seek to become an affiliate of CAPS.

Focus of projects: There is wide latitude regarding appropriate topics of research, but applicants must show how their proposed work fits into and advances one or both of CAPS's two established research themes, **health and well-being** and **family and intergenerational supports**. CAPS also seeks to promote work that reflects any of its three cross-cutting themes, the role of **policy**, the importance of **place**, and the distinctive circumstances of **specific populations**, whether defined by social identities, health status or disease condition, or institutional history. CAPS is particularly interested in projects that are multidisciplinary, collaborative, and that will advance the careers of junior scientists. Collaborations across participating universities are welcome, as is the involvement of collaborators elsewhere (the project leader, however, must be at one of the three CAPS sites).

Applicants are also encouraged to make use of a new state-by-year policy data base, the State Policy and Politics Database, which contains details on a broad range of relevant economic, safety-net, and related public welfare policies that vary between states and over time. This data file will be publicly available for downloading from the CAPS website (details on the timing of the release of these data will be announced in a forthcoming CAPS weekly newsletter).

Titles and descriptions of the 13 CAPS Pilot Projects supported to date can be found on the website (<https://asi.syr.edu/caps/research-2/caps-pilot-grant-program/>).

What to submit: Applicants must submit a single PDF file that includes: (1) a cover page with a 300-word abstract that summarizes the significance and innovation of the project, and that explains how it fits into CAPS's signature themes, (2) an NIH face-page form, (3) a 3-4 page description of the project, (4) NIH biosketch forms for all investigators, and (5) a proposed project budget with justification (the budget must include your project's **indirect** as well as **direct** costs). The project description should include sections that correspond to those typically required in an NIH proposal: specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach.

Please email the PDF file to CAPS@syr.edu with the subject line "2023-2024 Pilot Grant Application."

Requirements: In accepting a Pilot Project award, project leaders will agree to the following requirements: (1) acknowledge support from CAPS in any papers, publications, or presentations based on the project (guidance for such acknowledgements can be found on the CAPS website, <https://asi.syr.edu/caps/acknowledging-caps/>); (2) adhere to the NIH Public Access Policy by submitting peer-reviewed publications from the pilot to PubMed Central and linking them to CAPS' grant number P30AG066583; (3) if not previously the PI on an NIH-funded award, participate in one of the annual grant writers workshops conducted each year by CAPS; (4) provide material for the annual progress report submitted by CAPS to NIA (this will typically be needed in March); (5) provide copies of any products supported by the award to CAPS@syr.edu; and (6) respond to periodic (ca. every 4 months) requests from the CAPS leadership for information on the project's progress, outreach activities, plans, and so on.

Beyond these requirements, project leaders are expected to apply for external funds to support a free-standing project that builds on the pilot project; applications to NIA are particularly encouraged. Project leaders are also encouraged to contribute one or more research briefs to the Lerner Center/CAPS Bulletin series (for examples see <https://asi.syr.edu/caps/lerner-center-caps-bulletins/>).

Timeline: Applications are due by **January 27, 2023**. The PIs of projects selected for submission to NIA for final approval will be notified by March 1. At that time, project leaders must apply for any required IRB review and approvals (including IRB determination that the project is exempt from review).

Scope: CAPS anticipates supporting up to 3 Pilot Projects at an average total (i.e., indirect plus direct) cost of about \$40,000 for a 12-month period. Applicants should be prepared for adjustments to their budget requests, depending on the number and size of applications funded. Two-year projects are allowed but are not encouraged.

Review of applications will be conducted by the CAPS leadership team in consultation with additional reviewers as needed. Review criteria are analogous to those applied in NIH grant competitions; in addition, the extent to which the proposed project helps advance CAPS's signature research themes, its relevance to the general field of demography and economics of aging, and the potential to serve as the foundation for a successful follow-up NIA research proposal (e.g., R01, R03, R21, or a career development award) are of key importance.

Potential applicants should feel free to contact any members of the CAPS leadership team (Jennifer Karas Montez, Douglas Wolf, Janet Wilmoth, Kelly Musick or Pinka Chatterji) for clarification or additional information, using caps@syr.edu.