



November 10, 2023

The Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (**RCMAR**) invites Letters of Intent to apply for one-year \$40,000 pilot grants focusing on **minority aging and health disparities in the Black/African American populations**. Eligible applicants include faculty at **Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama, or University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)**.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023. Letters responsive to this call for proposals and potentially competitive for funding will be invited to submit full applications that will be **due on** Monday, Jan 22, 2024. (See Key Dates next page)

The Deep South RCMAR focuses on aging minoritized or otherwise disadvantaged populations in the Deep South. We are most interested in pilot applications supporting formative work that will form the basis of future intervention studies to address racial, socioeconomic, geographical (rural vs. urban) and other types of health disparities. We prioritize social, behavioral, psychological, and economic research on the processes of aging at both the individual and societal level demonstrating relevance to **minority aging and health disparities in the Black/African American population**, and studies should focus on specific **social, cultural, or behavioral mechanisms** to improve physical and mental health or cognitive function, including research designed to:

1. Develop and/or examine the efficacy of theory-based, culturally-relevant strategies to reduce disease, prevent disability, and promote health in older Black/African American individuals
2. Implement effective evidence-based community, clinic- or health system-based, group, or individual-based interventions to optimize health outcomes
3. Improve the measurement of social, psychological, economic, demographic, or other constructs germane to the health of older minoritized and other disadvantaged populations

Prior RCMAR pilot awardees have included physician scientists, nurse scientists, psychologists, exercise physiologists, epidemiologists, and health policy faculty. Basic science proposals that show a clear link to the potential for improving health and/or reducing health disparities are also invited.

One-year pilot projects will be funded up to **\$40,000**.

Eligible Applicants: Faculty members at Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, The University of Alabama, or UAB, at the rank of Instructor to Associate Professor are eligible. Faculty members from URiM groups are encouraged to apply.

- Faculty applicants of all racial or ethnic backgrounds are eligible. Members of underrepresented in medicine (**URiM**) groups are encouraged to apply ([Underrepresented in Medicine Definition | AAMC](#)).
- Post-doctoral trainees, residents, or students are not eligible to receive funds, even if supervised by a faculty investigator.
- PI may have previously received R21, R03 or R01 funding, if he/she can document a substantial change in research area.
- If an LOI is selected to move forward, the PI needs to be the main contact for communication as the potential award recipient, both pre-award and post-award. Multi-PI configuration is NOT allowed.

- It is expected that these pilot research projects will **lead to publications related to the project and** ultimately a career development award, an R21 or R01, or other **applications for extramural funding**, particularly in the Division of Behavioral and Social Research at the National Institute on Aging (<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr>).
- Applications will be evaluated on the scientific quality of the proposal, the focus of the proposal on health disparities related to older Black/African American individuals, as well as the applicant's potential for publications related to the proposal and future funding, particularly those aligned with the NIA BSR funding priorities (<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr/behavioral-and-social-research-funding-opportunities-and-applicant-resources>).
- If the applicant is at the Assistant Professor level or below, a senior level co-investigator should serve as a mentor for the investigator submitting the proposal. If needed, inquire for mentor recommendations.

Previous RCMAR pilot grant awardees are:

- NOT eligible to apply for another RCMAR pilot grant as the principal investigator (PI)
- Eligible to serve as a co-investigator or as a mentor for a new applicant as appropriate
- Encouraged to recruit and/or mentor other eligible junior faculty members to apply for a pilot grant

Any inquiries about eligibility should be emailed to Ann Smith, MPH, at annsmith@uab.edu.

Key Dates

- Release Date: Nov 10, 2023
- **Letters of Intent Due: Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023**
Notification of Approval to Submit Application: Friday, Dec 15, 2023
- **Applications Due: Monday, Jan 22, 2024**
Notification of Awards: Monday, Feb 19, 2024
- **Response to Critique Due: Monday, Feb 26, 2024** (If selected, applicant will need to submit response to review critique, with updated proposal)
- **Anticipated Project Start Date: July 1, 2024**
Anticipated Projected funding cycle: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Technical assistance is available for Letters of Intent and for those selected for submission of full proposals. If interested, contact Ann Smith via email.

Letters of Intent and applications may not be submitted in paper format. **Please submit electronically (in a SINGLE Word or PDF file) through the UAB MHERC website** (see link below).

Please [click here to submit an LOI and application](#) .

The **Letter of Intent (LOI) package must include:**

- Principal Investigator (PI)'s name, faculty rank, and institution
- Co- investigator(s)' name(s) and faculty rank(s)
- Senior mentor(s) and faculty rank(s)
- Project title and specific aims of study
- A 1-2 page description of how your project will address a research question relevant to the Deep South RCMAR. Address if you propose to study an issue for which health disparities have been documented between older Black/African Americans and other racial or ethnic groups. Does the project focus on social, cultural or behavioral mechanisms that impact physical or mental health among older Black/African American individuals? Is the proposed project relevant to rural aging, intervention or community-based participatory research, or to measurement?
- Include: 1) Problem to be addressed, 2) Specific Aims, 3) Approach, 4) Measurable Outcome(s)
- PI's NIH new format Biosketch

Please upload your LOI file (one Word or PDF file) **on or before, Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023 at 11:59pm CT.**

If you have questions concerning the submission of these LOIs or proposals,
please contact: **Ann Smith, MPH, at annsmith@uab.edu.**