October 8, 2026

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 **the health of older adults living in the Deep South. While we are interested in all applications focused on social and behavioral factors in relation to health among older populations, we are particularly interested in proposals on research focused on people living in the Deep South**.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by 5:00PM (CST) on Monday, Dec 7, 2026. 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 11, 2027. (See Key Dates next page)

We are most interested in pilot applications supporting formative work that will form the basis of future intervention studies to address health problems that are more prevalent in the Deep South. We prioritize social, behavioral, psychological, and economic research on the processes of aging at both the individual and societal level. Studies should focus on specific **social, cultural, or behavioral mechanisms** to improve physical health, mental health, or cognitive function, including research designed to:

1. Develop and/or examine the efficacy of theory-based strategies to reduce disease, prevent disability, and promote health in older adults.
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 people in the Deep South.

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 of older adults in the Deep South are also invited.

One-year pilot projects will be funded at **$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 applicants of all racial or ethnic backgrounds are eligible.
- 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 they 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,** by the PI.

- Applications will be evaluated on the scientific quality of the proposal as well as the applicants' potential for publications and future funding related to the proposal.
- All applicants need to have two mentors, with the primary mentor at the home institution and the secondary mentor may be at one of the partnering institutions.

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

Key Dates

- Release Date: Thursday, Oct 8, 2026
- **Letters of Intent Due: Monday, Dec 7, 2026**

Notification of Approval to Submit Application: by Friday, Dec 11, 2026

- **Applications Due: Monday, Jan 11, 2027**

Notification of Awards: Wed, Feb 24, 2027

- **Response to Critique Due: Wed, March 10, 2027** (If selected, applicant will need to submit response to review critique, with updated proposal)
- **Anticipated Project Start Date**: July 1, 2027

Anticipated Projected funding cycle: July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

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

Please apply online at the following link:
https://uab.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/2036812

Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Instructions:

Applicants should provide the following via InfoReady:

- Project Title
- Principal Investigator (PI)'s name, faculty rank, and institution
- Co-investigator(s)' name(s) and faculty rank(s)
- Senior mentors and faculty ranks
- NIH Biosketch(es) (new SciENcv form) for PI (applicant)
- Letter of Support (LOS) from your mentor(s) (optional, but recommended)
- **Letter of Intent (LOI) PDF** including:

  1) Problem to be addressed, 2) Specific Aims, 3) Approach, 4) Measurable Outcome(s)

  A 1-2 page description of how your project will address a research question relevant to the Deep South RCMAR. Highly competitive projects typically focus on social, cultural or behavioral mechanisms that impact physical or mental health among older adults in the Deep South. Past funded projects have focused on health disparities among older adults under the broader domains of social, cultural and behavioral mechanisms that impact health. Is the proposed project relevant to aging, intervention or community-based participatory research, or to measurement?

  Describe your plan for how this proposed project, if funded, would lead to your submission of a competitive grant proposal to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) within one year.

Please upload your LOI file on or before Monday, Dec 7, 2026, at 5:00pm CT.

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