

## **UAB Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot & Feasibility Program 2026 Request for Applications**

### **OVERVIEW**

UAB's Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) will fund up to **three (3) nutrition- and/or obesity-related pilot & feasibility (P&F) studies at up to \$50,000/year**. A second year of funding is possible through a competitive renewal process. Renewal applications will also be considered from investigators currently funded by the NORC P&F program; substantial progress in the aims of the original application must be evident.

### **RESEARCH FOCUS**

The P&F studies may focus on **any area of research related to nutrition and/or obesity**. Awards are designed to provide initial project support for new investigators; to allow exploration of possible innovative new directions for established investigators in nutrition sciences or obesity research that represent a *significant departure* from ongoing funded research; and to stimulate investigators from other areas of endeavor to use their expertise for nutrition/obesity research. Multidisciplinary applications are encouraged, covering topics such as nutrition, metabolism, and obesity, as well as associated comorbidities (e.g., cancer, cardiovascular diseases, etc.).

### **ELIGIBILITY**

P&F funding is intended to support: 1) full-time UAB faculty (instructor or assistant professor) and postdoctoral fellows without current or past NIH research project support as a PI; 2) established investigators with no previous work in nutrition or obesity research; or 3) established investigators in nutrition/obesity with a proposal to test an innovative idea representing a significant departure from ongoing research interests. Postdoctoral fellows wishing to apply are strongly encouraged to meet simultaneously with their UAB faculty mentor and the P&F and/or NORC director prior to submitting a proposal. Early career stage PIs (postdoctoral fellows, instructors, and assistant professors) must identify a senior faculty mentor from among the NORC members. Priority is given to applications demonstrating close relevance to the NORC mission (<https://www.uab.edu/norc/>), using NORC core facilities (<https://www.uab.edu/norc/cores>), and having a likelihood of future NIH funding (e.g., K- and R-series grants). The P&F program is based on the principles of access and engagement; all interested investigators are encouraged to apply.

### **PRE-APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Pre-application proposals must be submitted online using [UAB InfoReady](#). The InfoReady online submission form must be completed by **February 28, 2026** and opens January 12, 2026.

Pre-applications should be prepared as a single PDF providing title, PI, and an abstract (up to 500 words) that highlights the background, significance, hypotheses, specific aims, experimental design, and procedures of the proposed project (including relevant statistical analyses). NIH Biosketches must be provided for PIs and must conform to the [NIH Biosketch requirements](#). Biosketches are not required for co-investigators, collaborators, or other significant contributors.

The P&F committee will review all abstracts and select the most competitive for development of a five-page application plus supporting materials for a final round of selection. The full application will be due **April 6, 2026**. Specific instructions will be provided to those whose abstracts that are selected.

### **INQUIRIES**

Investigators are encouraged to contact Dr. Martin Young ([martinyoung@uabmc.edu](mailto:martinyoung@uabmc.edu); 4-2328) or Dr. James Hill ([hillj@uab.edu](mailto:hillj@uab.edu); 4-6103) to determine their eligibility and the appropriateness of their project.

**Acceptance of funding will indicate agreement to submit a grant application for extramural funding to continue the project and to provide written progress reports at six-month intervals.**

**KEY DATES**

Posted Date	January 5, 2026
Pre-Application Due Date	February 28, 2026
Invitation for Full Application	March 9, 2026
Full Application Due Date	April 6, 2026
Notification of Award	May 15, 2026
Award Start Date	June 1, 2026