

MiCDA Annual Pilot Project Competition Call for Proposals

Release Date: October 27, 2022
Pre-proposals Due: December 2, 2022
Invited Full Proposals: Due: January 27, 2023

The **Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging (MiCDA)** announces its annual pilot project competition. MiCDA is one of 12 research centers on aging funded by the National Institute on Aging. The Center funds new research on the demography of aging with a focus on three signature themes: (1) Enriching data infrastructure to promote breakthroughs in the demography of aging; (2) The changing demography of late-life disability, dementia and family caregiving; and (3) Life course determinants of health and wellbeing in later life and related disparities.

In 2022, MiCDA expects to fund (2-3) pilot projects that **bring a bio-social perspective to one of the Center's three signature themes. In this context, a biosocial perspective conceptualizes the biological and social as mutually influencing one another and draws on models and materials from the biological, biomedical, and social/behavioral sciences. Biological/biomedical materials are defined broadly and include biological specimen-based measures (e.g. from blood, saliva, hair, etc) such as hormones, inflammation, genomics, etc, and performance-based measures reflecting physiological, cognitive, and sensory capacity.** Projects may focus, for example, on further research on biomarkers of aging (theme 1); biosocial influences or biosocial outcomes related to the changing demography of late-life disability, dementia or family caregiving (theme 2); or biosocial determinants over the lifecourse related to health and wellbeing in later life and related disparities (theme 3).

Eligibility

Early-career stage faculty who are MiCDA affiliates or established faculty new to the demography of aging research who are interested in becoming a MiCDA affiliate may apply. The competition is open to UM faculty with appointments in the research professor, professor, scientist, investigator or clinical tracks as well as to post-doctoral fellows.

Budget

Projects will be supported for 1 year, from July 1 2023-June 30 2024. Applicants may request up to **\$30,000 in direct costs**. Expenses can include salary and associated fringe costs, research staff (data analyst, research assistant), data collection costs, travel costs, and materials and supplies necessary for the proposed research.

Other Requirements

Pilot project recipients are expected to present results at the annual MiCDA symposium, to be held spring 2024, and to cite MiCDA as a source of funding support for any publications or presentations that emerge from funding (P30 AG012846). Annual reporting of pilot outcomes to MiCDA is required.

Expected Outcomes

Pilot projects typically result in multiple presentations and at least one published paper. Often pilot recipients go on to submit successful grant applications to NIA related to their pilot work. Pilots also may lead to new data resources, study cohorts, or protocols.

Priority/Review Criteria

1. Priority will be given to projects that **bring a bio-social perspective to one of the Center's three signature themes. Projects that focus on issues among minority or disadvantaged subgroups are especially encouraged.**
2. Projects that advance another topic related to MiCDA's research themes will be considered but given lower priority.
3. Priority will also be given to projects that seed innovative research, have the potential to produce publications that advance the Center's signature research themes, are likely to serve as a foundation for external funding (e.g., NIH R03, R21, R01), and can be completed over a 12-month period.
4. The Review committee will rate each pre-proposal and based on significance, innovation, expected outcomes, and relevance to the theme of the call and will determine which applicants will be invited for full proposals. Full proposals will then be evaluated on significance, innovation, expected outcomes, relevance, and approach.

Applications

Pre-proposals. To be considered for a full proposal, please submit a pre-proposal by **December 2, 2022** through <https://micda.isr.umich.edu/programs/2022-micda-pre-proposal/>. The pre-proposal should include 1) a description of the research activity (1 page limit, excluding references); 2) a preliminary budget and justification, and 3) NIH biosketch. The description should cover the following topics: the significance of your research question, how your research is novel, a brief overview of the approach you plan to use, and expected outcomes.

Full proposals. If you are invited to submit a full proposal, please submit the following by **January 27, 2023** through <https://micda.isr.umich.edu/programs/2022-micda-full-proposal/> : 1) Cover letter, 2) Abstract; 3) Specific Aims (1 page limit); 4) Research Strategy (2 page limit, excluding references) that covers significance, innovation, approach, and outcomes and includes a brief statement as to how your pilot relates to one of MiCDA's signature theme; 5) PHS Budget pages and justification; 6) An NIH biosketch; and 7) For projects with human subjects research, complete applicable sections of the PHS human subjects and clinical trials information form.

UMAgging joint funding

MiCDA is one of 6 NIA-funded aging centers at the University of Michigan. Through the [UMAgging Initiative](#), Centers may choose to co-fund pilot project applications. Investigators interested in being considered for joint funding should indicate their interest in having a second Center co-fund in a cover letter. The cover letter that

accompanies full proposals should note the name of the co-funding Center and reasons why their application fits with the proposed co-funding Center's objectives.

Deadlines

Submit pre-proposals by **Friday, December 2, 2022.**

Invited full proposals will be due **Friday, January 27, 2023.**

Funding decisions are expected to be made in **February 2023.**

Funded projects will be required to submit Human Subjects approval or exemption by the UM IRB by **April 1, 2023.**

Please note that funding is contingent upon NIA approval, IRB approval and, for projects with a foreign component, foreign clearance by the US State Department.

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