



SHARE

**Scholars in Health and
Alzheimer's Research
Engagement**

Scholars in Health and Alzheimer's Research Engagement Request for Pilot Grant Research Proposals

Announcement Release Date: March 16, 2026

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 3, 2026

Full Application Deadline: May 15, 2026

Award Period: June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

The mission of SHARE is to enhance an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) research workforce and strengthen the science on non-medical drivers of health (NMDoH) and best practices in aging and ADRD. This National Institute of Aging-funded pilot project program will provide financial, curricular, and mentorship support to early-career faculty members to advance ADRD research in community engagement, health communication, and implementation science through a holistic and interdisciplinary approach. Each year, SHARE will accept up to three (3) faculty scholars.

Eligibility Criteria: Eligible applicants include—

- Early-career tenure-track and research assistant professors
- Primary investigators must have appointments at the University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia campus
- Projects must:
 - Focus on community engagement and either health communication or implementation science research or both
 - Collaborate with a community partner or agency
 - Advance the science on NMDoH that influence ADRD-related health outcomes
- Interested applicants are highly encouraged to communicate with the SHARE Research Coordinator before submitting a letter of intent

Selection Criteria: Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria—

- Relatedness of proposed research to the SHARE mission:
 - Does the proposed collaborative research in community-engagement, health communication, and/or implementation science explore the non-medical drivers of ADRD outcomes to enhance the health and well-being of all older adults?
- Quality of the proposed research:
 - Does the proposal center collaboration with a community partner or organization to address an important ADRD challenge?
 - Does the proposal have a strong focus on improving ADRD health outcomes inclusive of all older adults?
 - Is the proposal guided by theories / frameworks from community engagement, implementation science, and/or health communication research?
 - Does the proposal clearly describe the methodology and plan for analysis?

- If successful, will the findings have an impact on human health?
- Likelihood that the proposed research will lead to dissemination and further scholarly activity related to ADRD health outcomes and subsequent NIA-funded projects

Application Procedure:

First Stage:

Letter of intent to include:

- a. Applicant name
- b. Descriptive title of proposed pilot study
- c. Overall goal and specific aims of project
- d. Study design including explanation of core focus area(s) and related NMDoH
- e. At least two data collection methodologies to be used (e.g., interviews/focus groups and survey/analysis of relevant dataset, etc.)
- f. Statement (within the letter of intent) indicating availability to participate in all curriculum offerings, regular communication, and meetings
- g. Description of how the applicant will partner with community/agency partner(s) on the proposed project

Candidates will be notified by April 8, 2026 if their proposals will be considered for stage two and will have until May 15, 2026 to submit their full application.

Second Stage:

A full application will include—

1. Using NIH PHS-398 forms, submit the following:
 - a. Face page (does not need to be signed)
 - b. Detailed budget and justification
 - c. Biographical sketches for PI and all Co-Investigators (maximum 5 pages for each) - the [new form](#) is recommended, but not required
 - d. Research Plan (see required sections described below)

The research plan (maximum 4 pages) should include:

- I. Specific aims—a statement of the objectives of the project (1 page)
 - II. Research strategy—a description of the rationale for the research (3 pages); to include the following sections
 - i. Significance—describe the importance of the hypothesis to the field of ADRD health outcomes; is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
 - ii. Innovation—describe how the research may be new and unique, e.g., explores new scientific avenues, has a novel hypothesis, or creates new knowledge
 - iii. Approach—describe the overall strategy, guiding framework(s), theory(ies), or model(s), methodologies, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project; include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, as well as potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims
 - III. One paragraph should be devoted to discussing how the proposed research will support the applicant’s career, help to bridge funds, and/or expand the applicant’s research into a new area.
 - IV. Proposal should be single-spaced with margins not less than one-half inch, using a font size not less than 11 pt
2. Letter of support from a USC supervisor or faculty colleague familiar with the applicant’s research (up to 1 page)
 3. Letter of support from community/agency partner(s) that will be collaborating on the proposed project (up to 1 page)

Budget:

Funds Available **\$12,500 in total costs per faculty scholar** (this includes indirect costs of 8%)

Allowable Costs

- Salary and fringe may be included for the PI if used directly to work on this project
- Salary and fringe benefits for undergraduate and graduate students
- Research supplies needed to carry out the proposed research (e.g., software, participant financial incentives, poster printing, etc.)
- Travel funds related to the proposed work (e.g., travel for data collection and/or travel to conferences to disseminate findings)
- Publication related costs
- Other project-related costs
- Proposal budgets must include 8% indirect costs

Unallowable Costs

- Costs in connection with faculty degree requirements
- Food (for use in research/as participant incentives)
- Salary and fringe for Co-Investigators

Review Process:

Applications that are complete and responsive to this announcement will be evaluated for merit by a committee of SHARE Core Team and Program Faculty members. The committee will score applications based on the selection criteria noted above. The candidates with the highest proposal scores will be accepted into the SHARE program.

Additional Information: Applicants who accept the SHARE award for pilot research will be accepted into the program as a *SHARE Scholar* and will—

- Have a specialized faculty mentoring team
- Attend monthly research seminars in ADRD research methods, topical content, and professional development
- Present project updates during monthly scholar meetings
- Participate in evaluation activities to ensure program improvement and assess progress towards program goals
- Participate in annual surveys to track professional development for five years after the end of the pilot grant funding period
- Serve as a peer mentor or presenter for future SHARE faculty cohorts

For more information and to submit your letter of intent, please contact:

Brooks Yelton, MA, LMSW

Research Coordinator for *Scholars in Health and Alzheimer's Research Engagement Program*

University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health

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Note: If selected after submission of your full proposal, you will be asked to submit your application via USCERA. We will notify candidates of final selection

To find out more about SHARE and our other Team members, please visit our [website](#). This program is funded by a National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging Academic Leadership Career Award (K07AG088128). All faculty scholar pilot project awards are contingent on continuation of NIH funding.