



**RURAL DRUG ADDICTION
RESEARCH CENTER**

**REQUEST FOR PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS
(2020 - 2021)
OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES AND DEPARTMENTS**
Visit <https://rdar.unl.edu> for more information

The Rural Drug Addiction Research (RDAR) Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for pilot funding that is open to all disciplines through an NIH/NIGMS grant. Applicants must be full time faculty in the University of Nebraska system who are eligible for NIH funding. There are no disciplinary, department, or college restrictions on applicants. Successful applicants must link their proposal to a part of the RDAR Center's mission, strategies, and the 2020-2021 focus areas. **Monies are available to fund up to three pilot awards at UNL and up to two pilot awards at UNMC during this review cycle. Cross-institutional collaboration is highly encouraged.**

The RDAR Center's **mission** is to advance our understanding of causes, impacts, and interventions related to rural drug addiction. The Center's scientific and creative activities operate at a range of scales: from biological synapse to society. Interdisciplinary and data centric by design, the Center links pre-clinical studies to field-based behavioral, neural, social, clinical, and translational research and dissemination. Towards its mission, the RDAR Center has a number of notable approaches including:

1. Developing several custom cellphone, tablet, and simulation-based technologies through its Longitudinal Networks Core (LNC) Facility (see <http://www.odin-software.com> and <http://snapt-software.com> for details). These new technologies can rapidly capture fine-grained contextualized data about dynamic social networks, the interactions taking place within them, and forecast the evolution of individuals' attitudes and behaviors under social influences over time.
2. Using peer referral to recruit and interview 600 rural drug users to be study participants, as part of the Center's Rural Health Cohort (RHC) Study. Longitudinal data on attitudes, behaviors, and social networks related to drug use is being collected from RHC members over five years through interviews and cellphone-based technologies.

The goal of the RDAR Center Pilot Program is to provide support to emerging scholars to conduct promising research and creative activities that advance the Center's mission. Successful applicants may receive up to \$50,000 in direct costs for two-year projects. Budget requests are limited to \$25,000 in direct costs per year, and one-year pilot projects of \$25,000 are allowed. Pilot project recipients will also receive access to resources of the Center for professional development and project support.

Relevant Areas of Research

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 preference areas have been identified to be:

- Exploring the basic science of addiction that could inform future research with rural populations;
- Exploring contemporary and historical narratives of community and cultural experiences related to rural drug use and addiction. This area may include the creative representation of voices and experiences;
- Extending the capability of LNC Facility technologies;
- Extracting scientific knowledge from longitudinal and social network data collected from the RHC Study;
- Advancing the data-analytic capacity of the LNC Facility;
- Employing LNC Facility technologies in addiction-related research;
- Contributing to the understanding of drug addiction prevention and/or intervention with a focus on rural approaches.

Projects that make an impact on addiction-related treatment access, underrepresented minority, and/or rural populations, or introduce or evaluate new tools or technologies useful in addiction recovery are of high interest. For questions on whether your work qualifies for Center support, please contact Devan Crawford, dcrawford3@unl.edu.

Letter of Intent Submission

A letter of intent (LOI) is required prior to submission of the pilot grant application. Letters of intent should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11-point font). The letter of intent should be submitted as a PDF file and sent by email to dcrawford3@unl.edu. Letters must be received by 5pm CDT on September 1, 2020. Late letters will not be accepted.

- Two-Page LOI Document (including the following headings):
 - Study Title
 - Project Summary, including specific aims
 - PI and Research Team Expertise and Collaborative History
 - Significance and Scientific Premise
 - General Approach
 - Impact as related to the RDAR Center's long-term research mission (see above)
- References (not included in two-page count)

Letter of Intent Review: Letters will be reviewed by the RDAR Center Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee, a body of scholars with representation across clinical, translational, bench, and social sciences as well as dissemination and creative representation. Letters will be evaluated for their significance and alignment with identified preference areas. Priority will be given to those demonstrating rigor in approach along with likelihood to lead to successful extramural funding and/or have broader impacts. Those invited to submit full applications will be notified by September 15, 2020. Full applications will be due November 1, 2020. The RFA and requirements for invitees are detailed below. Please email your LOI and NIH biosketch as a combined PDF document to Devan Crawford at dcrawford3@unl.edu.

Full Application Submission Process

Only investigators who have submitted the required letter of intent and have been invited to submit a full proposal are eligible. Second year funding is contingent upon favorable review by the RDAR Center Leadership Team concerning project progress; scientific integrity; rigor of project; potential for Center synergy; and potential for successful external funding. Full applications should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11-point font). The full application should be submitted as a PDF file and sent by email to dcrawford3@unl.edu. Applications must be received by 5pm CST on November 1, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Full Application must include the following components:

1. NIH Biosketch, with personal statement related to your vision for center involvement
2. A small grant R03 style proposal including:
 - NIH Face Page* (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>).
 - Project Summary* (limited to 30 lines of text, or less)
 - Specific Aims* (1 page)
 - Research (Creative Activities) Plan* (5 pages)
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Broader Impacts (as related to the RDAR Center's mission)
 - References* (not part of the page limits)
3. *Budget* (use attached budget template)
4. *Budget Justification*
5. *Protection of Human Subjects Section* (if applicable)
6. *Inclusion of Women & Minorities and Inclusion of Children* (if applicable)
7. *Vertebrate Animals Section* (if applicable)

Full Application Review: The Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee (IMAC) will review all applications, using the NIH review criteria (*Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment*), modified as appropriate for this Pilot Grant Program. Three reviewers will provide critiques on each application. The Overall Score will also include considerations, including topic foci; relevance to the RDAR Center mission; inclusion of other IDeA institutions and COBRE facilities; the potential for impacting addiction and related harms; and broader impacts. The IMAC will suggest ranking to the RDAR Center Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will make recommendations for funding, which will be forwarded to the External Advisory Committee (EAC) for final approval. IMAC members cannot review applications from their departments or receive pilot grants. Finalists will be notified by December 1st and, if applicable, will be required to obtain all regulatory approvals prior to EAC review.

Special Considerations, Institutional Approvals, and Reporting

Budget Restrictions: Faculty effort is not allowed, and faculty salary support is not allowed. Student/post-doctoral stipend is not allowed but student/doctoral salary/wages are permissible. Wages for technical personnel are permissible. Equipment (>\$5,000 per item) is not allowed. Renovation and/or honorariums are not allowed. Travel is limited to proposal-related tasks only (e.g., no conference travel). Travel to locations outside of the US, Puerto Rico, and Canada is not allowed. Provided all regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, NIGMS) have been obtained, funding will likely be made available to your institution on March 1, 2021.

Indirect Costs (F&A): Current pilot funds are being contributed by partner institutions, rather than NIH, and these institutionally designated awards will not include indirect costs.

Clinical Trials: If your project meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial, you must check “Yes” when answering the clinical trial question on the NIH face page. If you answer “YES” to all four questions below, your project is considered a clinical trial.

- a. Does the study involve human participants?
- b. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
- c. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
- d. Is the effect being evaluated as a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

For additional information, visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm>

Regulatory Approvals: If your project includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, your institutional IRB or IACUC (respectively) approval is required before funds can be released. Protocols must be submitted to IRB for approval within 30 days of notification of funding and final approval sent to the RDAR Center within 90 days.

Additional Requirements: Pilot project grant recipients must participate in Center Enhancement and Programmatic Activities. Pilot recipients will be required to provide project updates, twice annually, during the RDAR Center Business Meetings which occur each month. Pilot recipients must submit written annual progress reports [standard NIH - RPPR Sec 6 A-H].

Eligibility and Eligible Institutions: Current full-time faculty at a participating institution are eligible to apply. Participating institutions include the University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and University of Nebraska at Omaha. Individuals must be eligible to apply for NIH funds. Individuals not currently receiving funds from another RDAR Center mechanism are eligible to apply.

BUDGET (DIRECT COSTS ONLY)	FROM	THROUGH
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List PERSONNEL (*Applicant organization only; no faculty effort nor faculty salary support is allowed*)
 Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project
 Enter Dollar Amounts Requested (*omit cents*) for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mnth	Acad. Mnths	Sum mer	INST.BA SE	SALARY REQUES	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
SALARY & FRINGE SUBTOTALS →								
CONSULTANT COSTS								
SUPPLIES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)								
TRAVEL (<i>only what is necessary to perform research; no conference or training travel</i>)								
OTHER EXPENSES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)								
CONSORTIUM/SUBAWARD COSTS (<i>Include subaward F&A as a direct cost</i>)								
SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS (<i>Item 7a, Face Page</i>)								\$
Institutional F&A Rate:					FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
TOTAL COSTS FOR PROJECT (<i>Item 7b, Face Page</i>)								\$