

**UCLA - Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research
Center for Health Improvement of Minority Elderly (RCMAR/CHIME) and
UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)
Pilot Project Award 2025-26**

**Applications are being accepted for one-year Pilot-Project Awards of
up to \$55,000 for the project period 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026**

Who Should Apply: Applications from entry-level and mid-level faculty and post-doctoral fellows are being accepted. Applicants must have a faculty or post-doctoral fellow appointment between 07/01/2025 and 6/30/2026 at UCLA or another academic institution/organization in Southern California. Funded applicants will conduct a pilot research project pertaining to minority older adult populations. Candidates who have received RCMAR funding in the past are ineligible to apply. RCMAR Pilot-Project Awards are designed to meet the career development needs of scholars who are committed to addressing aging health disparities among vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and who have themselves navigated traditional and/or contemporary structural barriers such as those commonly experienced by marginalized and/or underrepresented groups. All are welcome to apply.

Funding Amount Available: Three (3) one-year pilot project awards are available. The maximum funding available per pilot project is \$55,000: up to \$25,000 from the RCMAR/CHIME (NIH/NIA Grant #P30-AG021684) and up to \$30,000 from the CTSI (NIH/NCATS Grant #UL1TR001881).

Focus of Pilot Projects: Priority will be given to pilot research projects that have the most promise for reducing health and/or health care disparities affecting vulnerable and underrepresented older adults and focus on behavioral, psychological, social, or economic research on aging or health disparities in older adults. Funded pilot projects may involve primary data collection or secondary data analysis and address inequities in the health and/or healthcare of older adults. Ideally, pilot projects should demonstrate effective inter-institutional or academic-community partnerships and lead to the publication of at least one first-authored, peer-reviewed manuscript, along with a subsequent submission of a research proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), ideally the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

Note: We do **not** fund pilot projects involving clinical trials (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm>) or projects focused on basic science or clinical research (a branch of medical science that determines the safety and effectiveness of medications, devices, diagnostic products, and treatment regimens intended for human use).

Pilot project recipients will become RCMAR CHIME scientists and will benefit from the mentorship of RCMAR CHIME-affiliated faculty. RCMAR CHIME scientists are expected to attend monthly meetings that include a methodological seminar and a works-in-progress session. These meetings are held on the third or fourth Monday afternoon of each month. RCMAR CHIME scientists receive feedback on their projects and grant applications during these meetings. RCMAR CHIME scientists may also be selected to present their work at biannual Scientific Retreats and the RCMAR Annual National Meetings, which provides an excellent opportunity for networking and obtaining feedback on projects and career advice. The RCMAR CHIME also strongly supports and guides scientists conducting community-based participatory research in Southern California.

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Application Timeline:

1. **By noon PT on Tuesday, October 1, 2024**, applicants must submit an online application on the RCMAR CHIME website – <https://chime.med.ucla.edu/apply> – and upload the required supporting documents (see page 2 for required documents).
2. **By Friday, Nov 1, 2024**, candidates will be notified if they have been selected to prepare and submit a full proposal and supporting documents.
3. **By Monday, December 16, 2024**, selected candidates must submit the full proposal with supporting documents, including a six-page, single-spaced research plan, a detailed budget, and other requested documents.
4. **By the week of Monday, January 20, 2025**, selected candidates will meet with RCMAR CHIME Program Directors for an in-person (preferred) or Zoom interview.
5. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be notified as soon as possible (February 2025). Successful applicants will complete additional supporting documents that will be forwarded to the NIH/NIA for final approval in March 2025. The award will be disbursed after July 1, 2025.

Application Submission and Required Documents: Applicants must complete and submit the following required documents by **noon PT on Tuesday, October 1, 2024**:

1. Complete the required online application form on the RCMAR CHIME website <https://chime.med.ucla.edu/apply> and
2. Upload the following required documents as Microsoft Word files on the RCMAR/CHIME website <https://chime.med.ucla.edu/apply>
 - A. **A synopsis describing the proposed pilot project.** The synopsis must be single-spaced in Arial font with 11-point typeface, half-inch margins, on 8.5"x11"-size paper, limited to a maximum of two pages and must include:
 - i. Title of the project;
 - ii. Description of the proposed pilot project, including a brief description of the design and data to be collected or used in the pilot project;
 - iii. Participation from at least one stakeholder, either in an advisory capacity or as a full research team member, is required. Depending on the project's focus, stakeholders may include a community partner, patients, caregivers, front-line clinical providers, health systems, or others. Please describe how you plan to incorporate meaningful engagement with one or more stakeholders or stakeholder groups that inform some aspect of the research process—including topic selection, study design, and final dissemination of results.
 - iv. A specific statement about how the proposed pilot project meets the two main goals of the RCMAR CHIME Program: 1) contributes to reducing health disparities affecting vulnerable and underrepresented older adults and 2) advances the academic and research career of the pilot scientist.
 - v. A brief timeline that documents the feasibility of completing the pilot project in one year;
 - vi. A specific statement about how this pilot project will inform the applicant's future research and how it will lead to larger funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or another agency;
 - vii. Describe your view on career development needs of scholars who are committed to addressing minority aging health disparities.

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- viii. Describe your experience thus far in your career and how you have navigated traditional and/or contemporary structural barriers such as those commonly experienced by marginalized and/or underrepresented groups.
 - ix. Describe the history of your work in health disparities research and how you came to be interested in this work.
 - x. A description of the applicant and their role on the project; and
 - xi. Proposed mentor(s) and their title and affiliations, along with a statement about their involvement and the role they will play in conducting the pilot project.
- B. Applicant's NIH Biosketch in the current format.**
- C. All Mentors' and/or senior key personnel's NIH Biosketch in the current format.**
- D. Institutional Letter of Support.** You must submit an institutional letter of support from either your department chair or division chief confirming that you will have an entry- or mid-level faculty appointment between 07/01/2025 and 06/30/2026 and adequate protected time during that period to conduct your proposed pilot project.

Please contact us at rcmarchime@mednet.ucla.edu with any questions.

For more information about the RCMAR/CHIME and the UCLA CTSI visit <https://chime.med.ucla.edu/> and <https://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/>. The online application can also be found here: https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6nVeKUNL875i3ZQ.