

Request for Pilot Proposals
Network on Education, Biosocial Pathways, and Dementia across Diverse Populations
Supported by Grant Number R24AG077433 from the National Institute on Aging
Due Date: February 5, 2024

The Network on Education, Biosocial Pathways, and Dementia across Diverse Populations (EdDem), funded by the National Institute on Aging, announces their 2024 request for pilot proposals that will advance science in the education—dementia relationship in **1 of 3 critical areas**:

Critical Area 1: Early life factors and the education—dementia relationship

Critical Area 2: Mid-life socioeconomic, social, and psychological mediators of education and dementia

Critical Area 3: Biological mechanisms linking education to dementia

Applications can span more than 1 critical area, but are required to examine how race, ethnicity, gender, and/or geography shape the proposed relationships. We invite applications from new, emerging, and established dementia researchers. Interdisciplinary projects that include a dementia clinician and social scientist MPI team and encouraged, but not required.

EdDem Network

EdDem is a research network funded by the National Institute on Aging that aims to advance scientific understanding of how education relates to dementia by exploring the socioeconomic, social, psychological, and biological mechanisms that shape resilience and risk and if these patterns differ by race, ethnicity, gender, or geography. The Network is led by Sanjay Asthana (University of Wisconsin), Pamela Herd (Georgetown University), and Katrina Walsemann (University of Maryland). It includes new, emerging, and established dementia researchers from universities around the country. We are especially interested in receiving applications from investigators with more limited dementia research, but with significant expertise in race/ethnic, gender, or geographic health disparities, as well as investigators already engaged in dementia research but who have not yet focused on educational disparities.

Format of Proposals

Please include the following in your application:

- Cover page with title and principal investigator's name that includes a project summary clarifying the significance of the research
- NIH [biosketch](#) for all key personnel
- PHS 398 [budget page](#) and budget justification. If project is longer than 1 year in duration, use PHS 398 budget page for [entire project period](#).
- Indicate whether there is a foreign component to the pilot project. If yes, provide details on the foreign site/institution, the foreign collaborator, the budget for the foreign site, and the research objectives at the foreign site.
- 3-page proposal covering specific aims, significance, innovation, and research design/methods.

Proposals using human subjects will need institutional IRB approval before funding is awarded.

Important: When calculating total requested budget, IDC amount is part of the total budget and should be included on the budget form on the line that says "Consortium/Contractual Costs – Facilities and Administrative Costs."

Investigators may request total (direct + indirect) costs of up to \$40,000, **with a limit of 8% on indirect costs (IDC)**. Funds can be used for research assistance, salaries, travel, data acquisition, etc. When developing your budget, please include costs for 1 trip to present your work at the Gerontological Association of America (GSA). Principal Investigators must hold a PhD. We expect to make 4 awards.

Pilot grants will be issued as a subcontract through the PI's home institution, with additional documents required before funds can be awarded as outlined in the Timetable section below.

Additional Requirements

- Subcontracts are not allowed.
- PIs must be affiliated with a U.S. university.

Submission Instructions

Please submit proposals as a single PDF file by February 5, 2024 at 5 pm to Jennifer Doiron at ebddp_network@umd.edu.

Timetable

- February 5, 2023: Proposals due to Jennifer Doiron at ebddp_network@umd.edu
- Week of March 4: Notification of decisions and request for additional documents, including a Subrecipient commitment form, completed NIH Face Page (Form [Page 1](#)), and IRB approval from the PI's university's IRB review board. These documents must be submitted by the PI's office of sponsored research and be signed by an institutional official before an award can be made.
- May 15, 2024: Estimated earliest start date after receipt of IRB approval.

Duration of Pilot Projects: Until April 30, 2025. Projects may request a 2-year duration, ending April 30, 2026; however, pilot funding for May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026 is contingent on NIA's continued funding of the Network. For 2-year projects, we will not be granting an extension after the 2-year period.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated for:

- The quality of the proposed research
- Likelihood of advancing science in 1 of the 3 critical areas that are central to the Network's aims;
- Likelihood that proposed work will result in NIA funding (e.g. K99/R00, K01/02/08/25, R03, R21, R01) within 2 years;
- Likelihood the research will yield important publications that advance our understanding of education and dementia.

New-to-the-field, early career, and underrepresented investigators are especially encouraged to apply.

Expected Outcomes

PIs are required to:

- Present results from their pilot projects in a spring 2025 virtual webinar;
- Participate in a GSA symposium (if accepted) in November 2025;
- Participate in grant mentoring offered by the EdDem Network to enhance their competitiveness for external funding;
- Submit a written report upon completion of the project.

All publications, grant proposals, and grant funding stemming from the pilot project must be reported to the Network. All research resulting from the pilot grant must credit NIA grant R24AG077433 and must be submitted to PubMed Central.

Scientific Questions? Please contact:

Sanjay Asthana, University of Wisconsin (sa@medicine.wisc.edu)
Pamela Herd, Georgetown University (ph627@georgetown.edu)
Katrina Walsemann, University of Maryland (kwalsema@umd.edu)

Administrative and Budget questions? Please contact:

Jennifer Doiron (ebddp_network@umd.edu)