

# Call for Letters of Intent

## Center for Family Caregiving Pilot Funding Program

Funded by the:  
Center for Caregiving Research, Education, and Policy  
University of Pittsburgh Health Policy Institute

**Purpose:** The Center for Family Caregiving Grant program seeks to fund interdisciplinary pilot proposals on family caregiving that can lead to new lines of research with independent funding.

This Call for Letters of Intent is intended to solicit innovative proposals demonstrating interdisciplinary research collaborations on family caregiving. For the purposes of this program, family caregivers are defined as relatives, friends, partners, or neighbors who provide assistance, typically unpaid, to someone who has limitations in their physical, mental, or cognitive functioning. Caregivers may be caring for individuals of any age (e.g., children, young, middle-aged or older adults)

### **Priority will be given to projects that:**

1. Promote interdisciplinary collaborations in the clinical, social, behavioral, or policy sciences. Examples could include but are not limited to:
  - novel intervention approaches for family caregivers
  - implementation studies that directly inform policy
  - secondary data analysis, particularly of national and regional data sets (e.g. NSOC, Pittsburgh Caregiver Survey), that inform health care and long-term support services policies (e.g., monetizing the value of family caregiving)
  - explore the development of new methodologies for doing caregiving research
2. Involve early- or mid-stage investigators
3. Involve investigators who wish to extend their work into family caregiving

Pilot projects are intended to permit the generation of preliminary data for a larger proposal. These projects could be initial tests of feasibility or to support entry into a novel area of research where there is little background information. Proposals demonstrating collaboration between investigators from different disciplines and schools will be given priority.

### **Eligibility:**

1. The proposal must have either a single Principal Investigator or two co-Principal Investigators. Preference will be given for involvement of an early-stage investigator as one of the Principal Investigators. All awarded pilot investigators and research team members must demonstrate current University compliance certification.
2. Application is open to independent investigators at all academic levels within the University of Pittsburgh.
3. Co-funded projects or those with commitments for matching funds are welcome. Please provide letters of support documenting co-funding and description of how the co-funding will be used to ensure success of the proposed study.

Funding:

**A total of \$100,000 is available for the initial funding program**

**Awards will range from \$30-50,000 for 1-2 years**

**Funds are for direct costs of the project, including staff support, supplies and technical support. Direct support for faculty is discouraged. However, we will consider applications that request salary support for investigators proposing secondary data analysis which require little technical or staff support.**

Letter of Intent:

A single pdf file of the Letter of Intent is **due by 5:00 on 10/7/18 to Ally LaCovey (ACL44@pitt.edu) and should include the following:**

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Name, address, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator(s)
- Participating institutions/departments/schools
- Potential matching funding, if applicable (matching funds are not a requirement for funding)
- NIH-format biographical sketch of key investigators
- One to two page (maximum) summary to include:
  - The background, importance and impact of the work
  - Description of strength of collaboration
  - Specific aims with brief summary of methods to be used
  - Brief statement of plans for independent funding
  - Total amount and duration (1 or 2 years) of funding request
- References cited

Each Letter of Intent will be reviewed by the Center for Family Caregiving Executive Committee (Dr. Rich Schulz, Dr. Scott Beach, Dr. Heidi Donovan, Prof. Everette James, and Dr. Ann-Marie Rosland) for responsiveness and potential impact. Candidates selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by **10/21/18**.

Final proposals, **due by 12/15/18**, will be reviewed with an emphasis on the scientific merit of the research, the overall innovative or novel nature of the project, the level of cross-disciplinary interactions, and the likelihood that the work will lead to external funding.

For questions regarding this funding call, please contact Ally.

**Summary of Key Dates**

**10/7/18 by 5:00 p.m. - Letters of Intent due to Ally (ACL44@pitt.edu)**

**10/21/18 - Notification of invitation to submit full proposal**

**12/15/18 by 5:00 p.m. - Full proposal due to Ally (ACL44@pitt.edu)**

**01/15/2019 Awards announced**

**Funding will commence after IRB approval has been obtained**