

Request for Proposals: Center on Parenting and Opioids Piloting Funds

The NIDA P50 Center for Excellence, "Center on Parenting and Opioids" (CPO) requests proposals to fund pilot projects to begin June 1, 2022. The Pilot and Training Core of the CPO seeks to support early career researchers as they conduct mentored research that is aligned with the [Center Aims](#) and priorities.

We hope to fund around 3 pilot projects each with a budget of up to \$30,000 direct. Pilot projects must be led or co-led by an early career researcher who is mentored by one of the [Center Investigators](#) and must be able to be completed within 12-18 months from start of funding. Pilot funding is intended to be used to develop a novel line of research related to the Center Aims and priorities that directly leads to the submission of one or more applications to external support for a longer-term project.

Funding Priorities

Applications will be reviewed with respect to their fit with the following priorities:

1. *Significance and Scientific Rigor.* The primary review criteria are the significance of the proposed project to the health and wellbeing of parents and children and the scientific rigor and feasibility of the approach.
2. *Potential for the Pilot Project to Generate New Lines of Independent Research.* Proposers are encouraged to describe how the proposed project will contribute to the development of new research in parenting and substance use that has the potential to attract external funding and/or provide opportunities for the early career investigator(s) on the team to launch a career in parenting and substance use research. Evidence of past success in research is encouraged.
3. *Alignment with overall Center Aims.* Proposals must describe how the project would address one or more of the Overall Center Aims.
4. *Equity.* The Pilot and Training Core will strive for long-running equity in pilot project funds across the units affiliated with the Center.
5. *Diversity.* Projects led or co-led by investigators who are members of under-represented groups are strongly encouraged.

Review Procedure

The Pilot & Training Core will solicit applications for pilot project funds annually. Applications will be reviewed by the Pilot & Training Review Committee (Berkman, Seeley, Seghete, Skowron) and scored using the NIH system on the following criteria: Significance, Approach, Investigators (including past success of the team and training potential for the early career investigators), and Future Potential of the pilot to lead to larger funded projects. Final funding decisions will be made by the CPO Steering Committee. In making decisions, the Steering Committee will review the recommendations from the Review Committee and weigh the availability of funds each year with respect to other Pilot & Training Core investments, the number and quality of proposals, and other funds available locally for Center-related opportunities.

Applications for piloting funds should be submitted via [web form](#) to the Pilot & Training Core Lead (Berkman) in response to the annual solicitation. Applications include:

- Project title.
- List of key personnel including the PI(s), co-I(s), and proposed mentor.
- A 2-page research plan that addresses the funding priorities across 4 sections: Specific Aims, Significance, Approach, Future Plans, and Timeline.
- An NIH biosketch for all key personnel.
- An itemized proposed budget, total budget, and brief budget justification. The budget should include an estimate of the total expenditures expected in the first year of the pilot (i.e., expenditures before June 1, 2023). Tenure-track faculty salary is not an allowable expense on the pilot budget.
- A timeline of when major study activities will begin, such as the start of data collection and/or staffing hires.
- Note that IRB approval, a completed NIH “Protection of Human Subjects” document, and a Data Safety Monitoring Plan (if the proposed pilot is a clinical trial) will be needed prior to the release of any funding, and all clinical trial pilots must be approved by the P50 program official prior to launch. Applicants should factor this into their timelines.

Due Dates

Applications for pilot funds for next academic year are due **Friday, March 4, 2022** by 5pm PST. Funding decisions will be made in a timely manner after review. Please direct any questions you have to the Pilot and Training Core Lead, Dr. Elliot Berkman (berkman@uoregon.edu).