November 2026

ARIZONA ALZHEIMER'S CONSORTIUM (AAC)
AND STATE OF ARIZONA DHS
PILOT GRANT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DATES

Optional Letter of intent (LOI) Deadline: **January 20, 2027 (Wednesday, end of the day)**
Full Application Deadline: **February 17, 2027 (Wednesday, end of the day)**
Anticipated award notification**: May 2027**
Anticipated Start Date: **July 1, 2027**

PURPOSE

The Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium (AAC) invites applications for Pilot grant proposals to support basic or clinical, biomedical, translational, epidemiological, caregiving, educational, or behavioral studies in Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related dementias (ADRD) including Parkinson's disease, or brain aging research. Pilot projects are intended to develop preliminary data to help establish the basis to apply for further independent research funding.

Clinical trials are NOT permitted. Please refer to NIH's Definition of Clinical Trials: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/definition.htm. If you are not sure whether your proposed research is a clinical trial, please check with us before applying.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Who May Apply: Candidates should be senior post-doctoral fellows or junior faculty level investigators and, less commonly, more senior investigators from other fields, who are interested in AD/ADRD research and who will have the highest chance of subsequent competitive grant funding. Applicants must be based at an Arizona university, hospital, or non-profit institution.

Prior Award Restrictions: Pilot grants will not be awarded to the same Principal Investigator (PI) during consecutive years, or to PIs who have current funding from a federal- or state-supported Developmental grant.

Citizenship or Residency Status: Only U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals, or an individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence who possesses an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551), or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent resident prior to appointment, are eligible. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Geographic Location and Institutional Affiliation: The Program will only consider proposals from applicants within Arizona at the time of submission or from candidates who will relocate to an Arizona university, hospital, or non-profit institution before July 1, 2027. Applicants based at for-profit institutions must be collaborating with researchers at an AAC Member or Affiliate Institution, with the primary Principal Investigator having an appointment at one of the Institutions below. All work must be carried out in the U.S.

Member Institutions

Arizona State University
Banner Alzheimer's Institute
Banner Sun Health Research Institute
Barrow Neurological Institute
Mayo Clinic Arizona
Translational Genomics Research Institute
University of Arizona (UA)

Affiliate Institutions

Banner Alzheimer's Institute – Tucson	Northern Arizona University
Critical Path Institute	UA – College of Medicine, Phoenix
Midwestern University	

MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT

Available Funding: We aim to fund up to three 12-month Pilot project grants ($30,000/year direct costs; no indirect costs), depending on availability of funding from the state of Arizona.

Allowable Costs: Requested funds should support costs that are allowable, allocable, and necessary to accomplish the specific aims of the Pilot project. Allowable costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Personnel (salary and fringe benefits for the Pilot PI, research staff, postdoctoral fellows, or graduate students directly contributing to the project)
- Supplies and materials required for the proposed research
- Equipment essential to the project (if not otherwise available through institutional or Core resources), not exceeding $5,000 for a single item
- Biospecimen acquisition or data access fees
- Domestic travel directly related to the conduct of the research or dissemination of findings

The following **are not allowable:** capital expenditures unrelated to the project and costs associated with clinical trials. All budget requests must be justified in the Budget Justification section of the application. Applicants are encouraged to leverage available Arizona ADRC Core resources to maximize the use of requested funds.

- **Foreign Travel** is not allowed for state-funded projects.
- **Indirect Costs** or Facility & Administrative Costs are not allowed for state-funded projects.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES & RESOURCES

ADRC Core Resources: Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the vast resources available through the Arizona ADRC and national ADRC network (e.g., those related to its Administrative, Clinical, Neuropathology, Biomarker, Outreach Recruitment and Engagement [ORE] or Data Management and Statistics [DMS] Cores). Proposals that are related to the disciplines of the ADRC Cores are encouraged but not required. We strongly recommend consultation with Yi Su, PhD (see contact info below), who oversees our Statistics Program. If you have any questions about ADRC Core resources, please contact Winnie Liang, PhD, or Jessica Langbaum, PhD (see contact info below).

Biospecimens & Data Resources: Information on obtaining biospecimens and data from the Arizona ADRC can be found on the ADRC website: https://azadrc.org/our-research-center/; or by contacting Yi Su, PhD. Data collected from all NIA-funded ADRCs across the United States (US) can be accessed through the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) and their website is: https://www.naccdata.org/. Biological materials, such as DNA, plasma, serum, RNA, CSF, cell lines and brain tissue from ADRCs and other Centers across the United States can be requested through the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD): https://ncrad.iu.edu/.

Mentors, Collaborators, & Consultants: Applicants may also wish to identify a mentor, collaborator, or consultant to advise or assist them on the project. Potential mentors, collaborators, consultants should be listed in the grant cover letter. Applicants who would like suggestions for appropriate matches should contact Dr. Jessica Langbaum (see contact info below), or Dr. Carol Barnes (Director, Ad Hoc Review Program, carol@nsma.arizona.edu).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Optional letter of intent (LOI): Interested applicants may submit an optional LOI, not to exceed one page, by Wednesday, January 20, 2027, to Trisha Walsh, MSW (Trisha.Walsh@bannerhealth.com).

The LOI should include a descriptive title; name and address of the applicant; concise description of the proposed project; names of study team members; and mentors. While LOIs are not required, it allows the Ad Hoc Review Program to plan reviews. Scientific feedback on proposed projects will not be provided.

Full Application: PHS research grant application fillable forms must be used in applying for these funds (available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html) All components of the proposal, including appendices, should be sent in a single PDF (**<10Mb**) by 5PM AZ time on Wednesday, February 17, 2027 to Trisha Walsh, MSW (Trisha.Walsh@bannerhealth.com). **Please make sure that you receive an email confirming receipt of your application.** If you do not receive an email, please contact Trisha Walsh.

Applications must include:

- ☐ A cover letter with the names and contact information for 3-4 potential qualified reviewers **outside of Arizona**, and if previously reviewed: a summary of substantive changes made to the proposal
- ☐ Face page (form page 1)
- ☐ Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, etc. (form page 2)
- ☐ Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period (form page 4) - Budget limited to $30,000/yr direct costs (please see the "Mechanisms of Support" section above)
- ☐ Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period (form page 5)
- ☐ Budget Justification
- ☐ Biographical Sketch(es) for Key Personnel - Please use ScienCV to prepare the Common Form: https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biographical-sketch-common-form
- ☐ Resources (Facilities and Other Resources, Equipment)
- ☐ Research Plan - limited to 5 pages and should include:
  a. Specific Aims
  b. Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach)
  c. **Timeline and Plan for Submission of Competitive Grant Application**
- ☐ Bibliography and References Cited
- ☐ Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable)
- ☐ PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report - Planned Enrollment (if applicable)
https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/PHS_Inclusion_Enrollment_Report-V1.0.pdf
- ☐ Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)
- ☐ Letters of Support (if applicable)
- ☐ Checklist Form Page

Appendices are limited to three publications, manuscripts, abstracts, patents, or other printed materials directly relevant to the proposal.

Due to the evolving landscape of policies and regulations surrounding the use of artificial intelligence (AI), proposals that involve the use of AI must:

- Abide by AI policies and regulations at the PI's home institution(s).
- Disclose the use of generative AI before producing any work.
- Perform due diligence to ensure proper licensure of model training data for all generative AI functions.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit by two relevant experts. Applications will be rated based on 1) significance, 2) quality, innovation, and feasibility, 3) use of NACC, NCRAD and/or ADRC Core facilities and resources, 4) potential of applicant to develop a successful research program in the field, 5) likelihood of leading to a successful grant application, and 6) sound experimental design and statistical approach. If the grant was reviewed previously, the applicant may include a summary of the substantive changes made to the proposal in their cover letter.

Notification of projects selected for funding will be sent by early May 2027. The anticipated funding start date of successful applications is July 1, 2027.

POST AWARD EXPECTATIONS

Successful applicants will be requested to provide one-year progress reports in spring 2028. They will be invited to attend the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Retreat in spring 2028 and are encouraged to attend the Consortium's Annual Scientific Conference.

Recipients will also be asked to provide updates on planned and submitted manuscripts and grant applications related to study findings, as well as on their publications, presentations, grant awards, and broader research activities in AD, related disorders, and aging research.

CONTACTS & INQUIRIES

Inquiries are encouraged. Inquiries regarding ADRC Core resources or expertise related to the applicant's field of interest can be directed to:

Jessica Langbaum, PhD, Director, Arizona ADRC, Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium
Email: jessica.langbaum@bannerhealth.com

Inquiries regarding statistical approaches and access to Arizona ADRC biospecimens and data be directed to:

Yi Su, PhD, Data Management & Statistics Core Leader, Arizona ADRC
Email: Yi.Su@bannerhealth.com

General Consortium questions may be directed to:

Winnie Liang, PhD, Administrative Director, Arizona ADRC, Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium
Email: Winnie.Liang@bannerhealth.com

Inquiries regarding application and review procedures can be directed to:

Trisha Walsh, Email: Trisha.Walsh@bannerhealth.com