## Competition Details

**Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (CADRC) - New to the Field Award FOA (LOI)**

---

## Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **Internal Submission Deadline:** | Monday, November 30, 2026 |

---

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Administrator(s):** | NI Research Admin (Owner) |
| **Category:** | Abstract Competition |
| **Cycle:** | 2027 |
| **Funding Source(s):** | $80,000 - Direct Costs |

---

## Description

**Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**
***New to the Field Award***
**Funding Opportunity Announcement**

The Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (CADRC) is pleased to announce an exciting new funding opportunity made possible with support from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU SOM).

The *New to the Field Award* will provide a one-time $80,000 award for a 12-month project to a CWRU faculty member to initiate new research programs in Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration. The goal is to provide critical "seed funding" or pilot support to generate preliminary data for larger, independent external grant applications (like an NIH R01) in the near future.

### Recommended Components

- Priority will be given to projects that focus on rate of progression
- Priority will be given to experienced researchers who have not had prior NIH funding in the field of Alzheimer's disease or related diseases
- Use of data, samples, and scans available through NACC, NCRAD, and SCAN are strongly encouraged
- Use of existing resources at the CADRC, particularly those that are unique to the CADRC, is

encouraged

**Competition Timeline**

| | |
|---|---|
| **November 30, 2026** | Letter of intent due |
| **December 11, 2026** | Nominee selection by the CADRC review committee |
| **January 4, 2027** | Full application deadline (if selected to apply) |
| **January 29, 2027** | Awardee notified |
| **March 1, 2027** | Earliest Project Start Date |

**Details**

- **Funding Organization:** Case Western Reserve University
- **Award Amount:** up to $80,000 in direct costs (indirect costs not allowed)
- **Length of Funding:** One year
- **Number of Applications Allowed per Applicant:** 1
- **Number of Possible Awardees:** 1

**Project Requirements**

- Applicant is a CWRU faculty member
- Potential for broad impact in AD/ADRD
- Innovative idea with sound, scientific research to support the proposal
- PI will submit a mandatory annual progress report to demonstrate successful progress of research project given to projects that focus on rate of progression
- Projects that are greater than minimal risk to human subjects will require IRB approval

**Applicants**

- CWRU faculty with demonstrated research experience who wish to expand their scope of impact to Alzheimer's disease/Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (AD/ADRD).
- Senior investigators with expertise outside of the AD/ADRD field looking to apply their knowledge to the AD/ADRD field

**Examples of Possible New to the Field Award Projects:**

- A study based on data or biospecimens in the ADRC data set to determine the feasibility of conducting larger studies in the future.
- A study proposed by an investigator with an interest in research in AD, before the study has developed to the point of being suitable to apply for individual grant support.
- Functional, mechanistic, or pre-clinical activities designed to move a basic discovery

towards a translational endpoint in the near future.

**Examples of Unacceptable Developmental Projects:**

- Clinical trials. Investigators interested in clinical trials should consider applying through the NIA Alzheimer's Disease Pilot Clinical Trials FOA.

**See Supplemental Document for all details**

**Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**
***New to the Field Award***
**Funding Opportunity Announcement**

The Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (CADRC) is pleased to announce an exciting new funding opportunity made possible with support from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU SOM).

The *New to the Field Award* will provide a one-time $80,000 award for a 12-month project to a CWRU faculty member to initiate new research programs in Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration. The goal is to provide critical "seed funding" or pilot support to generate preliminary data for larger, independent external grant applications (like an NIH R01) in the near future.

**Recommended Components**

- Priority will be given to projects that focus on rate of progression
- Priority will be given to experienced researchers who have not had prior NIH funding in the field of Alzheimer's disease or related diseases
- Use of data, samples, and scans available through NACC, NCRAD, and SCAN are strongly encouraged
- Use of existing resources at the CADRC, particularly those that are unique to the CADRC, is encouraged

**Competition Timeline**

| | |
|---|---|
| **November 30, 2026** | Letter of intent due |
| **December 11, 2026** | Nominee selection by the CADRC review committee |
| **January 4, 2027** | Full application deadline (if selected to apply) |
| **January 29, 2027** | Awardee notified |
| **March 1, 2027** | Earliest Project Start Date |

**Details**

- **Funding Organization:** Case Western Reserve University
- **Award Amount:** up to $80,000 in direct costs (indirect costs not allowed)
- **Length of Funding:** One year
- **Number of Applications Allowed per Applicant:** 1
- **Number of Possible Awardees:** 1

**Project Requirements**

- Applicant is a CWRU faculty member
- Potential for broad impact in AD/ADRD
- Innovative idea with sound, scientific research to support the proposal
- PI will submit a mandatory annual progress report to demonstrate successful progress of

research project given to projects that focus on rate of progression
- Projects that are greater than minimal risk to human subjects will require IRB approval

**Applicants**
- CWRU faculty with demonstrated research experience who wish to expand their scope of impact to Alzheimer's disease/Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (AD/ADRD).
- Senior investigators with expertise outside of the AD/ADRD field looking to apply their knowledge to the AD/ADRD field

**Examples of Possible New to the Field Award Projects:**
- A study based on data or biospecimens in the ADRC data set to determine the feasibility of conducting larger studies in the future.
- A study proposed by an investigator with an interest in research in AD, before the study has developed to the point of being suitable to apply for individual grant support.
- Functional, mechanistic, or pre-clinical activities designed to move a basic discovery towards a translational endpoint in the near future.

**Examples of Unacceptable Developmental Projects:**
- Clinical trials. Investigators interested in clinical trials should consider applying through the NIA Alzheimer's Disease Pilot Clinical Trials FOA.

**Funding Exclusions**
- Tuition
- Travel (unless required for completion of the project)
- Construction or renovation
- Rent for laboratory or office space
- Computer hardware or standard software (Microsoft Office)
- No indirect costs
- No more than 15% of funds may be directed toward salary support. (Note: SOM *does not permit* faculty *to charge salary support to pilot awards*.)

**Letter of Intent Guidelines**

The CADRC invites applicants to submit a two-page Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI should be a Word document formatted in 11pt, single-spaced Arial font with 0.5" margins. Ensure the following components are included in your submission:

1. A descriptive project title
2. PI name
3. Senior/Key personnel name
4. Participating institutions
5. Proposed specific aims
6. General scientific background to support the proposed research
7. A brief research plan (please clearly articulate how rate of AD/ADRD progression will be addressed)

8. NIH Biosketch: Biographical Sketch Common Form | Grants & Funding

All LOIs and biosketches should be submitted to Elizabeth 'Biz' Kisela (kiselae@ccf.org) no later than ***November 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST.*** Applicants will be notified via email of the decision regarding their application no later than ***December 11, 2026.***

**Full Application Components**

Following submission of the LOIs, up to three applicants will be chosen to submit full applications. Applicants invited to submit a full application will be required to submit the following documents in accordance with the NIH forms version I (General Annotated Forms - Version FORMS-I.pdf):

1. Specific Aims
    a. Background and statement of need or knowledge gap to be addressed.
    b. Minimum of 2 specific aims that address the described need or knowledge gap
2. Research Strategy (3 page limit)
    a. Describe in detail the background information, preliminary data (if any), and innovation of the proposed project.
    b. Describe the methods to be used and their application to address each specific aim.
    c. Describe the impact of the project outcomes on Alzheimer's disease research
    d. Describe the contribution pf the proposed project and outcomes in regards to the CADRC and ADRC programs and NAPA milestones.
3. Facilities and resources
4. Detailed budget
5. Budget justification
6. Documented approval from applicant's grants office
7. Letter(s) of support (LOS)
    a. All applicants should submit a LOS from their Center Director and/or Department Head
    b. In addition, junior faculty and post-doctoral candidates must submit a LOS from the MD/PhD mentor overseeing the work of the junior investigator. The mentor should confirm the applicant is able to commit substantial time and effort to the proposed project.

Application packets will be due no later than ***January 4, 2027 at 5:00PM EST*** and are to be submitted via the InfoReady system. The InfoReady link will be provided to those chosen to complete a full application.

**Review Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following: Overall Impact, Significance, Investigator Qualifications, Innovation, Approach, and Study Environment. Upon review by the CADRC Executive Committee, the Center Director, Dr. Jagan Pillai, will notify the awardee of their selection by ***January 29, 2027***.

**Contacts**

Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to Elizabeth 'Biz' Kisela (kiselae@ccf.org).

**About the CADRC**

The CADRC is a multi-institutional Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in Northeast Ohio funded by the National Institute of Health/National Institute on Aging. The CADRC is comprised of five participating academic and medical institutions: Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF), Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center (LSCVAMC), MetroHeath System (MHS), and University Hospitals (UH). The collaborative nature of the CADRC leverages extensive regional research and clinical expertise to achieve the collective and shared goals of the CADRC, the NIA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) program, and the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) "to foster an environment that supports cutting-edge Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Alzheimer's disease-related dementia (ADRD) research and to facilitate discovery that translates into direct benefit to people living with dementia, their care partners, scientists and clinicians."