



Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for
Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV

CHERISH Pilot Grants Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

Pilot Proposal

Can I apply with a global health project or should it be a domestic project?

You can propose research that has a global perspective. However, the home institution must be U.S.-based.

As a NIDA-funded Center, does CHERISH consider projects involving alcohol use?

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is the lead NIH institute supporting and conducting research on the impact of alcohol use on human health and well-being. Nonetheless, alcohol use disorder and other substance use disorders have significant overlaps. If your project focuses on alcohol use disorder in relation to other substances, such as overlapping or comorbid conditions, we will consider the project. Read more on NIDA's key takeaways on alcohol [here](#).

Is there a typical study design (e.g., phase III trial) or method CHERISH is seeking in the proposals?

We do not have a specific category or expectation of study type or method beyond the project including health economics research as specified by the NIH (see NOT-OD-16-025 entitled, *Clarifying NIH Priorities for Health Economics Research*). Some applicants use the pilot project to supplement their ongoing research or a clinical trial with an economic component. The pilot project can also be an investigation in which you are collecting data for your next grant. If the project is new and you're not sure how it fits with CHERISH, please reach out to us to discuss more at pilot.grants@cherishresearch.org.

Eligibility

Eligibility is based on being a trainee of a CHERISH investigator/affiliate or being nominated by one. How does the nomination process usually work?

You do not need to have a sponsor in place to apply or submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). After reviewing your LOI, we can connect you to a potential sponsor within CHERISH. If you are not already connected to a CHERISH Research Affiliate or someone from our network, please reach out to us.

As a non-citizen but U.S.-based researcher am I eligible to serve as PI?

Yes! Our only requirement is that the subcontract must be executed with an investigator at a U.S.-based institution.

I have a K-award. Am I eligible to serve as a CHERISH pilot PI?

Yes! Nonetheless, we strongly recommend checking with your home institution about what costs can be included in the budget for someone who is currently supported by a K-award as certain expenditures may not be allowable.

As a postdoc, am I eligible to serve as a CHERISH pilot PI?

Yes! Nonetheless, we strongly recommend checking with your home institution as each institution may have different limitations specifying who can serve as a PI. Applying for a CHERISH pilot should be considered in consultation with your mentorship team.

As a PhD student, am I eligible to serve as a CHERISH pilot PI?

Yes! Typically, PhD students have successfully received pilot awards after coursework completion. Nonetheless, we strongly recommend checking with your home institution as each institution may have different limitations specifying who can serve as a PI. Applying for a CHERISH pilot should be considered in consultation with your mentorship team.

Funds

Is the pilot grant awarded to an institution or an individual?

The pilot award is typically administered as a subcontract award between Weill Cornell Medicine and the PI's primary institution for the period of the grant year (May 1 through April 30). Note, the subcontract must be with a U.S.-based institution.

How do you recommend integrating protected time with our department?

We have a mix of pilot grantees who use the pilot funds to support salary or to buy access to a large database. It depends on what your needs are. We see about an equal mix of people using it for salary and project-related needs.

There is also flexibility in the pilot grants. After you are awarded the pilot grant, things may change, and the money gets shifted around. Funds may have been part of your FTE previously but may also shift because the data costs more than you anticipated. Conversely, you may not need to use the data for the purposes you thought you did.

Others

What should I ask from a sponsor (e.g., letter of support or co-authorship)?

At the minimum, a sponsor can review your proposal and acknowledge in a letter of support that your project is consistent with NIH's priorities for health economics and a good fit for the CHERISH pilot grant. They do not need to specify a time, FTE, or co-authorship commitment.

Are there any formatting requirements for the application?

Beyond what we state in the application instructions, you may reference NIH's [how-to-apply application guide](#). If you run into any specific questions, reach out to pilot.grants@cherishresearch.org.