OAIC National Coordinating Center
Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers

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Coordinating Center
Request for Applications
Flexible, High Value Early Career Faculty Award

The Pepper OAIC Coordinating Center is seeking proposals for a type of application that allows maximal flexibility and creativity. In the 1-page applications, proposers will explain how their proposed use of the funds (up to $5,000) will: 1) help advance the applicant's career; and 2) build cross-center collaboration. Use of funds must be in accord with general NIH guidelines. Examples might include new software, minor equipment, key lab supplies, shared tech, travel reimbursements, etc.

The OAIC Coordinating Center leaders encourage applicants to contact us as needed for guidance on applications and assistance with matchmaking and identifying potential collaborators from other Pepper Centers via access to the OAIC Collaborators Database via the National Pepper Center website (www.peppercenter.org).

Applications should include the following

- Project description: one page, 300 word max, Arial 11 font.
    - How the funds will be used
    - Projected timeline for use of the funds - all funds must be spent < 12 months
    - Anticipated outcomes
- A separate reference page with up to 10 references is allowed
- One-sentence endorsement/commitment letter from Director of submitting OAIC
- A copy of IRB/IACUC approval letter will be required at the time of award (if applicable)

Review Criteria

- Led by Early Career Investigator, and high likelihood of advancing their career
- Relevance to the overall Pepper Program theme of improving physical function and preventing and / or reversing physical disability in older persons
- Builds collaboration between 2 or more Pepper Centers
- Feasibility
- Innovation
- Likelihood that funding will result in key manuscripts and / or future extramural funding
- Potential to 'leverage' other available resources to support the overall initiative.

Submission Deadlines

Full PDF applications will be due to the Pepper Coordinating Center by **Monday, September 14, 2026**. Applicants are to send full applications via email to abby.archer@advocatehealth.org.

Contact

Please direct any questions regarding the application process to Abby Archer at abby.archer@advocatehealth.org.