



**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY  
REGIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING  
CALL FOR RESEARCH OR ACTIVITY PROPOSALS**

**Focus on Intergenerational programs promoting the environment and sustainability**

Sustaining physical, cognitive, and social interaction is a central focus of maintaining well-being across the life span. WSU attained the designation of Age-Friendly University in Spring 2022. This aspirational status inspires the WSU community to continue its efforts to offer programming to older Wichitans and Kansans and to increase efforts to make existing programs and activities more accessible to a broader and more diverse range of older adults. This includes advancing accessibility to courses, programs, and university activities for the diverse range of older adults in the Wichita area and evaluations of these efforts.

The Regional Institute on Aging (RIA) at Wichita State University is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for **graduate student or faculty projects and research** that addresses issues related to facilitating well-being in older adults. This funding opportunity is supported by a gift from the estate of Evelyn Cassat. Funding will be provided for projects and research at WSU that contribute to knowledge and practice related to well-being in older adults. Projects of all types will be considered. However, particular attention will be given to proposals containing an intergenerational component and that ally with this year's focus area of **enhancing well-being through physical activity and social connections**.

Anticipated funding rates will range between \$2,000 to \$15,000, with a maximum funding amount of \$20,000 for a 12-month period<sup>1</sup>. Proposals may be either for program activities, evaluation efforts, or foundational and applied research (see definition below). **Activities and research projects that actively involve undergraduate and graduate students at WSU are expected.** However, all proposals that have the potential to improve our understanding of age-related issues and/or that improve the quality of life for older adults in Wichita and the surrounding area will be considered. Research and activity projects must also include a plan for obtaining future funding from external sources to continue the research.

**WSU is committed to innovative approaches to research and practice, including interdisciplinary research. This grant offering is intended to support thoughtful, well-**

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<sup>1</sup> Note that projects may not receive the full \$20,000 even if it is requested and proposals for smaller amounts will also be considered. Budgets should clearly document and justify the need for the requested funds.

**designed, activities and research to establish proof of concept or pilot data to facilitate the securement of additional external funds to support on-going efforts aimed at addressing important issues related to well-being in older adults.**

#### **STUDENT RESEARCHER REQUIREMENT**

A requirement of all proposals is the inclusion of undergraduate and/or graduate students. WSU is committed to providing applied learning or research experiences for all undergraduate students in order to maximize their skill sets at graduation.

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

All full-time WSU faculty members from any department **who have not been a PI on a grant funded by the RIA in the last two years** are eligible to apply. **WSU graduate students may also apply** for funds to support making programs or activities more age-friendly or to supplement age-related research or projects. A WSU faculty letter of support is required for all student applications.

#### **WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF “OLDER ADULTS”?**

For the purpose of these proposals, research should focus on adults age 60 and older.

#### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH?**

For the purpose of these proposals, foundational research is focused on learning or creating new knowledge. Applied research is focused on the application or extension of existing knowledge.

#### **WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT PERIOD?**

Projects will be funded for a maximum of 12 months. Shorter term projects will also be considered. These grants are not renewable, however no-cost extensions can be requested for a period of no more than 9 months.

#### **WHAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET?**

Allowable costs include direct costs only, such as personnel costs, stipends for undergraduate and graduate researchers, laboratory and/or research costs, and supplies, travel, conference costs, and publication costs. No major equipment purchases will be covered. No indirect costs will be paid.

#### **WHAT IS THE TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATION AND NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS?**

- Release of announcement December 1, 2024
- Letters of Intent (LOIs) February 10, 2025
- Application due date March 15, 2025
- Review April 2025
- Awards announced May 10, 2025
- Earliest Project start date May 11, 2025

- Latest Project start date

August 29, 2025

## HOW TO APPLY

### 1. Cover page and an executive summary (submit as one file)

a) **Cover page.** The first page is a cover page that will include ONLY the title of the proposed project, the names of the principal investigator and co-principal investigator(s), their departments and contact information, and the names of any other research team members and departments. The remaining two pages are for the Executive summary.

b) **Executive Summary.** (2 page maximum) Provide a succinct overview of the project that allows RIA grant reviewers to clearly understand what you are trying to accomplish. **Be sure to describe how the project will impact well-being in older adults and describe the broader impact of the project in promoting more age-friendly communities.**

Include concise information about the rationale for the project, project aims, methods, total cost, undergraduate or graduate researcher participation, and amount requested from RIA. **If the proposed study is technical in nature, please use lay terminology in the Executive Summary.** This summary should be written so that it can be understood by readers who are not familiar with the area of study or jargon used in a specific discipline.

### 2. Proposal narrative (submit as one file)

The proposal narrative (**7-page maximum for narrative**)<sup>2</sup> provides an opportunity to describe your project thoroughly and to demonstrate clearly your proposal's relationship(s) to sustaining well-being in later life. Please address the following:

a) Project aims and objectives

b) Project significance

1. Describe how the project complements or extends existing knowledge.

2. Describe the specific anticipated contribution(s) to knowledge in this field.

c) Proposed methods

1. Eligibility and exclusion criteria for participants;

2. Research Questions and Data analyses planned (for Research Projects)

### 3. Personnel

a) Provide 1-page biographical sketch about the principal investigator(s) and other key personnel involved in the project.

b) Undergraduate and/or graduate student involvement

### 4. Budget, budget narrative, and timeline. Submit line-item budget separately as one file; submit the narrative and timeline together as a separate file)

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<sup>2</sup> Reference pages are not included in the 7-page limit.

- a) The Line-item budget includes all expenses and income, including grant funds requested from RIA and funds received and/or requested from other sources for this project.
- b) The budget narrative describes how the budget related to the proposed project activities. Budget narratives should include a description for each line item identified in the budget.
- c) The timeline corresponds directly to the activities that are described in the proposal.

#### **TERMS OF AWARD**

If awarded, the grantees agree to the following terms.

1. Funds must be used within one year from the date of the award.
2. Grant recipients agree to present their research in either presentation or poster form at an RIA sponsored colloquium.
3. Grant recipients must acknowledge funding from the WSU Carl and Rosina Cassat Regional Institute on Aging Grant in any presentations or publications that result from the research conducted through the grant.

#### **HOW TO SUBMIT Format:**

1. Please use either Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman font with a font size no smaller than 11 and margins on all sides of 1 inch.
2. The executive summary and the proposal narrative may be single-spaced.
3. Please name all files with your last name in lower case followed by RIA followed by file identifier, e.g. "smith\_RIA\_exsumm.docx" or "smith\_RIA\_budget.xlsx."

Transmitting files:

1. Email all files named as shown above, plus a completed research proposal routing form, to Dr. Carryl Baldwin, Regional Institute on Aging, Director, [Carryl.Baldwin@wichita.edu](mailto:Carryl.Baldwin@wichita.edu).
2. All files must be received by Dr. Baldwin by 5 PM on March 15, 2025. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted or reviewed.

#### **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

Direct questions to: [Carryl.Baldwin@wichita.edu](mailto:Carryl.Baldwin@wichita.edu)