



Community Health and Aging
in Native Groups of Elders

CHANGE RCMAR

Call for Applications

Purpose

The Community Health and Aging in Native Groups of Elders (CHANGE) Research Education Program is an 18-month training program in which participants complete both a pilot study and a grant proposal. The goals of the CHANGE pilot studies are to encourage junior investigators to pursue a project in social, behavioral, psychological, or economic research on Native aging and/or Native Elders' health, specifically with American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, or Pacific Islanders; to publish at least one manuscript using their pilot study data in peer-reviewed journals; and to obtain external funding. Pilot study funds cannot be used to supplement funded research that is already in progress. Applications may propose research with middle-aged or younger age groups if the findings will be relevant to promoting healthy aging among Native people.

Eligibility and Funding

The maximum total award for a primary data analysis project is \$50,000 in direct costs. Applicants may request a maximum of 0.20 FTE in salary along with benefits, in addition to direct research costs. Applications may propose either primary data collection or secondary data analysis. For further information regarding pilot study award amounts, please review the full funding description at <https://ireach.wsu.edu/change-rcmar/call-for-applications>. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Plan to conduct aging-related research with American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, or Pacific Islanders;
- Have an advanced degree in social, behavioral, economic or other relevant health sciences;
- Be a transitioning postdoctoral fellow, Assistant Professor, or Research Assistant Professor at WSU or an affiliated CHANGE university or hold another faculty position and be eligible for Early Stage Investigator status for at least 2 more years;
- Be eligible for serving as Principal Investigator on a K- or R-series mechanism;
- Be up to date with human subjects training or commit to completing training before the cohort's kickoff meeting;
- Demonstrate ability to meet all program requirements for the full 18 months;
- Secure approval of the funding sponsor (NIH-NIA) after acceptance to the program by the project team; and
- Identify an experienced faculty member at their institution willing to serve as home mentor for the duration of the 18 month period.

Application and Review Process

The CHANGE pilot study application and review process involves two phases. First, eligible applicants will submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) by **March 30, 2026**. The LOIs will be reviewed for scientific merit and programmatic priorities by the CHANGE Executive Committee. After this initial review of LOIs, we will invite selected applicants to complete and submit a full application, which will be assigned to a team of three CHANGE reviewers with appropriate expertise.

To submit a LOI, please include the following:

- A completed CHANGE Initial Application form;
- A list of potential co-investigators and community partners who will assist in the completion of the project;
- The intended community, tribe, setting, or dataset for the proposed project; and
- A 500-word abstract, including:
 - Background;
 - Specific Aims; and
 - Methods and data analysis plan.

Research Education Program Activities

The 18-month Research Education Program will involve seven components:

1. A 2-day in-person introductory meeting on health disparities pertaining to aging in American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Elders (Month 1);
2. Bi-monthly didactic sessions on topics ranging from community-engaged research to career development, delivered by webinar;
3. Pilot study (Months 1-12);
4. Virtual all-group meetings with cohort and CHANGE faculty (every 3-4 months in Months 1-12);
5. Bi-weekly interactions with mentor team (Months 1-18);
6. A 2-day intensive grant-writing workshop (Month 13); and
7. A mock review of each trainee's funding proposal (Month 18).

Please submit LOIs to changercmr.ireach@wsu.edu by March 30, 2026.

Questions?

Please send inquiries to changercmr.ireach@wsu.edu or visit <https://ireach.wsu.edu/change-rcmr>.

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