

CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER CALL FOR SEED GRANTS

DUE DATE: Friday, October 3, 2025

TARGET AWARD NOTIFICATION DATE: Friday, October 31, 2025

The Carolina Population Center (CPC) will award 2-4 seed grants for proposals to support exploratory or preliminary work focusing on population-based research that match CPC research themes and are within the scope of the research programs of the [Population Dynamics Branch of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#) (NICHD). We anticipate releasing a separate call soon for seed grants related aging.

Proposals will be evaluated based on scientific merit. Priority will be given to projects that will clearly lead to the development of fundable grant proposals to be submitted in the 2026/2027 cycle and to Early-Stage Investigators (as defined by the NIH as those who finished their training within the past 10 years and have not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award).

Please submit your proposal in PDF format to Lexie Groner (lexie_groner@unc.edu), no later than 5:00pm on Friday, October 3, 2025.

Please include the following materials with your proposal:

- [PHS 398 Page 1 face page](#). Only need to fill out:
 - project title
 - name(s) of researchers with PI clearly indicated
 - total budget
- Research plan, no longer than 3 pages, that includes:
 - specific aims (1 page)
 - significance (1 page)
 - brief project plan (1 page)
 - Short paragraph on fit relating your project to the Population Dynamics Branch (PDB) of NICHD,
- [PHS Budget](#):
 - Projects can range in size up to \$30,000 direct costs
 - Allowed costs: staff time (e.g., programming), student assistance, equipment, pilot testing, etc. Post-doc salary support is limited.
 - Unallowable costs: Faculty salary support or research outside of the US. Analysis of international data or preparatory work for an international project is permitted, however.
- Brief budget justification.
- [NIH-format biosketch](#) for the PI(s).
- Timeline for your project including a target date to submit a grant proposal and to what agency (NICHD is preferred).
- Planned Enrollment Table if the proposal includes human subjects research. Funded proposals will be asked to submit a full NIH-format human subjects protection plan.

You can work with Lexie Groner to put together these materials, including the budget.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of CPC Advisory Council, with an anticipated notification date Friday, October 31st.

If you have any questions about whether your proposed work fits within PDB parameters, please contact Karen Guzzo (karen.guzzo@unc.edu). For practical questions on preparing your proposal, please email Lexie Groner (lexie_groner@unc.edu).