

## **RFA Title: Pre-Proposals for Building Capacity at Texas A&M for Dementia & Alzheimer's Research**

**Purpose:** The recent Dementia & Alzheimer's Research Initiative (DARI) Research Symposium showcased the breadth and depth of dementia-relevant expertise among Texas A&M University (TAMU) investigators and underscored the value of integrated team science. In response, DARI will provide pilot funding to support the development of innovative research projects by TAMU investigators—both individuals and collaborative teams—focused on Alzheimer's and Related Dementias. The ultimate goal is to position Texas A&M for competitive funding through the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) and other related opportunities.

**Sponsorship and Funding:** This RFA is jointly sponsored by Texas A&M Health and the Office of the Vice President for Research. A total of up to \$1,250,000 is allocated for one-year research projects aimed at generating pilot data to support future large-scale proposals to DPRIT and similar funding mechanisms.

Applications may request budgets in the range of \$75,000 to \$100,000, with a maximum standard limit of \$150,000. In exceptional cases, proposals requesting more than \$150,000 may be considered only if: (a) The budget request is thoroughly justified, and (b) Prior approval is obtained from the DARI co-leads at least two weeks before the pre-proposal submission deadline. Please note that faculty salary support and indirect costs are not permitted.

**Illustrative Topics:** Research areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Examining and ameliorating dementia risk factors
- Investigating disease mechanisms at molecular, cellular, behavioral, and societal levels
- Developing innovations in prevention, treatment, and care management
- Enhancing quality of life for individuals living with dementia
- Reducing the burdens of care
- Advancing data systems to support dementia research and care

**Format and Submission Guidelines:** This RFA follows a two-stage process: (1) Pre-proposal submission and review, followed by (2) invitation-only full proposal submissions.

The pre-proposal must include the following components, formatted with 0.5-inch margins and 11-point Arial or Helvetica font:

Page 1: Face Page to include the following:

- Project title
- PI name and affiliation
- Names and affiliations of co-investigators
- Contact information

Page 2: One-Page Research Strategy to include the following:

- Rationale and innovation
- Specific aims and general approach
- Contribution to TAMU's dementia research capacity

Optional: Tables and figures, if within the one-page limit  
Please follow the NIH-style one-page Specific Aims format

**Page 3: Budget and Justification**

- Proposed budget with brief justification
- Up to 5 references

All three pages must be combined into a single PDF and submitted to [DARI@tamu.edu](mailto:DARI@tamu.edu) by 11:59 PM on the due date. Incomplete or non-compliant submissions will not be reviewed.

**Review Process and Selection Criteria:** Pre-proposals will be evaluated on:

- Alignment with the intent of the RFA
- Degree of innovation
- Potential for productive collaborations

Up to 25 pre-proposals will be selected to submit full proposals. PIs will be notified accordingly. Investigators may serve as Principal Investigator (PI) on one submission and may be listed as co-investigators on multiple proposals.

**Key Dates:**

- Pre-Proposal Deadline: July 7, 2025
- Pre-Proposal Decision Notification: July 21, 2025
- Full Proposal Deadline (invited only): September 1, 2025
- Award Announcements: October 15, 2025

**Evaluation of Full Proposals:** An independent review panel will assess full proposals based on:

- Scientific rationale and innovation
- Soundness of research approach
- Qualifications and expertise of the investigative team
- Potential for impact and contribution to building collaborative dementia research at TAMU

Transdisciplinary and highly innovative (high risk, high reward) proposals are strongly encouraged. The DARI leadership may recommend combining similar pre-proposals into more comprehensive team efforts where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact the DARI Team at [DARI@tamu.edu](mailto:DARI@tamu.edu). The FAQ will be posted soon on the DARI website: <https://health.tamu.edu/dari/index.html>.