

Aging Research in Criminal Justice & Health (ARCH) Network Pilot Grant Funding Application Instructions

The goal of the Aging Research in Criminal Justice & Health (ARCH) Network is to develop a national, multi-disciplinary community of emerging and established researchers to catalyze and support research and interventions designed to improve health and social outcomes in the growing population of criminal justice-involved older adults and people with serious illness.

The ARCH Network leadership team spans two universities – the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and the University of Connecticut (UConn).

Our *purpose* is to bring public health, health-related research, and criminal justice reform together into one conversation. Our *vision* is to create and use evidence-based health and healthcare solutions to design or inform policies and programs that advance criminal justice reform. Our *approach* is to support new and established scientists in research on the health and/or healthcare needs of criminal justice-involved older adults and people with serious illness.

ARCH Network Pilot Grant.

We are announcing the ARCH Network's 2026 Pilot Grant opportunity of up to \$50,000.

We plan to support one pilot award of up to \$50,000 that is designed to help the applicant(s) collect the pilot data needed for application to larger NIH or equivalent grants. To be successful, the applicant must specify how the findings from this pilot will lead directly to the next grant application, and the timeline for that application.

Emerging researchers should describe how the ARCH Network Pilot Award will help them develop the skills and/or collect the data needed for a strong K Award application or other career development award. The goal of this funding is to support an early career scholar/team or to support a researcher with a new focus on incarceration or aging research.

Established Researchers should describe how the ARCH Network Pilot Award will help them collect the pilot data needed for an R01 or equivalent NIH Award. To be successful, the applicant must specify how the findings from this pilot will directly lead to an R01 or equivalent application and the timeline for that application.

It is our goal to fund emerging as well as established faculty. Therefore, Early Stage Investigator (ESI) status (within 10 years of terminal degree and without a prior R01 or equivalent grant), will be factored into award decisions. In your application, please specify whether you are applying as an emerging or established researcher.

Eligibility: To be eligible for the ARCH Funding, principal applicants must:

1. Be an ARCH Network Member (if you are not a member, please reach out to Jamila.Henderson@ucsf.edu to join the Network)
2. Be based in the U.S.

Selection: Proposals will be scored according to the NIH system by a committee comprised of ARCH Network Members. We expect to **fund one pilot project** this cycle. ARCH Network pilot/exploratory projects will be selected for their capacity to support multidisciplinary, community-engaged, and/or life-course research that has the potential to have a benefit for understanding and improving the wellbeing and/or health of criminal justice-involved older adults.

All grant award recipients will be expected to present their work in progress via Zoom during their funding year.

All research funded by the network that enrolls human subjects must be approved by an institutional review board (IRB) governing human subjects research at the recipient's academic institution. Preference will be given to applications that have already submitted an IRB proposal.

Submission Dates: Applications are due on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. Completed applications must be emailed to jamila.henderson@ucsf.edu no later than **3:00 pm PT, Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. Electronic applications should be formatted as a single PDF document with pages numbered sequentially. ***We expect to make funding decisions the week of May 4th.**

Application Guidelines: Completed applications must contain the components listed below and follow provided formatting instructions (Arial font, 11 point, .5-inch margins, continuous page numbering on fully assembled application package) and maximum page limits.

Please number all pages sequentially.

1. Cover Page (title, names and positions of investigator/s, ESI status (if eligible))
2. NIH Biosketch (Common Form) from Primary Investigator
3. NIH Biosketch (Common Form) from Secondary Investigator (If Applicable)
4. Specific Aim(s): Describe the aim(s) and objectives that will determine the scope, depth, and overall direction of the study (**1 page max**)
5. Research Strategy: Describe the overall strategy, methodology (including study design, study population and sample, and key measures (if applicable)), basic planned analyses, and potential to lead to larger scale work (**2 page max**)
6. Budget requested and basic justification (salary, travel, transportation, etc.)
***Required institutional indirects must be included. The total cost, including indirects, cannot exceed the funding limits (e.g., \$50,000) described above!**
7. References
8. If human subjects research: Have you submitted an IRB or do you have IRB approval? (yes/no)
9. NOTE: Protection of Human Subjects Documentation – documentation of IRB approval will be required before funds are dispersed

Review Criteria: The ARCH Network Review Committee will use the following criteria to assess each application. These are provided so applicants will understand items of importance to reviewers. Please note: priority will be given to proposals that map to the Network's research mission and goals as described above and/or here: <https://archnetwork.ucsf.edu>.

Importance of Research:

- Does this study address important questions associated with the health of criminal justice-involved older adults and/or people with serious illness?
- Is the study consistent with and relevant to the Network's goals? Are the aims important, original, and innovative?

Rigor and Feasibility:

- Are data collection and analysis methods clear and adequately justified?
- Is the study feasible to accomplish within the stated time frame (one year) and with the requested resources? Is there clear potential to lead to future larger-scale work? Are the necessary permissions and resources in place to conduct this research (i.e., data availability; access to justice-involved populations; Institutional Review Board approval), or is it clear that all permissions will be obtained in a timely manner?

Expertise and Resources:

- Does the PI explicitly demonstrate a clear commitment to the study?
- Do the applicant's training, experience, and accomplishments indicate the applicant is likely to accomplish the project's objectives?
- Is there evidence of multidisciplinary and/or community collaboration?

Budget and Resources:

- Is the budget appropriate and well justified?

For further information, contact:
jamila.henderson@ucsf.edu