



***Maggie E. Neumann Health Sciences Research Fund***  
**Request for Pilot Research Grant Proposals**  
**Submission site: <http://www.udel.edu/0012839>**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this request for pilot research grant proposals is to seek interdisciplinary applications for the endowed ***Maggie E. Neumann Health Sciences Research Fund***. This announcement invites applications for pilot research grants designed to provide proof-of-concept for novel and potentially scalable approaches to improve the health and well-being of those with chronic disabilities. The American Disabilities Association defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Categories of disabilities include those related to vision, mobility, auditory, neurological, cognitive, medical, and psychological impairments. We expect to fund 2-4 pilot grants in the range of \$25,000 to \$60,000 each.

**Background**

Both Healthy People 2030 and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Initiative (PCORI) identify improving the health and well-being of people with disabilities as a national priority. Consistent with these national priorities, the goals of the ***Maggie E. Neumann Health Sciences Research Fund*** are to bring together interdisciplinary teams of scientists, community and/or commercial partners to address the most pressing barriers to optimal health and well-being in children and adults with chronic disabilities. Data suggests that 1 in 4 adults in Delaware have a chronic disability, and that ~14% have a cognitive disability. As compared to those without a disability, those with a disability have a substantially higher prevalence of depression, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Moreover, key risk behaviors such as low levels of physical activity, poor sleep, high sedentariness, poor diet, and increased tobacco and alcohol use are more common in individuals with a disability. Individuals with disabilities are less likely to have sufficient access to recreational and employment opportunities, and to live independently. These disparities in health and wellness may be especially pronounced for individuals with a chronic disability who belong to racial and ethnic minority groups and reside in rural settings.

Topics of general interest to this request for proposals to improve the health and/or quality of life for children and/or adults with chronic disabilities include but are not limited to:

- Better understanding the biology of aging and its impact on the prevention, progression, and prognosis of chronic disability.
- Testing of new tools or adaptation of existing tools that can be used in the management of physical function, behavioral symptoms or mental health conditions.
- Piloting of health care initiatives to increase early detection and referral of treatment for co-morbidities.
- Testing of methods to assess and enhance the potential of settings and environments to be health-promoting for individuals with chronic disabilities.
- Testing of strategies to promote access to care and services for people with chronic disabilities living in rural or underserved areas.
- Development of effective interventions to promote health, well-being, and function.

**High priority pilot research projects will be those that:**

- (1) Present empirically-supported and innovative research aims that address a demonstrated health and well-being problem of children and/or adults with chronic disabilities
- (2) Clearly demonstrate how research outcomes will provide proof-of-concept for a novel tool, strategy or approach to improve the health and well-being of children and/or adults with chronic disabilities
- (3) Demonstrate how and when research findings will be used in the development of a subsequent larger grant seeking external support or significantly advance progress toward commercialization
- (4) Describe innovative methodologies that are feasible and can be completed in the 12-month funding period
- (5) Explain how research results will be disseminated to community partners (if relevant) and ultimately advance the health and well-being of the targeted population
- (6) Are led by interdisciplinary teams (i.e., investigators represent more than one discipline or area of expertise) and foster collaborative research approaches

As appropriate for the research questions posed, inclusion of adults or children with chronic disabilities (i.e., the targeted audience) key community or commercial partners in the conceptualization, planning and implementation of the research is encouraged to generate better-informed research questions and enhance the likelihood of translation into broader practice or commercialization.

**Who is Eligible to Apply?**

Any faculty member or post-doctoral associate/fellow (with a named faculty mentor) from the University of Delaware is eligible to apply. At least one member of the investigative team (i.e., Key Personnel) must be a current faculty member in the College of Health Sciences (CHS) at the University of Delaware. The investigative team should be interdisciplinary, and preferably include investigators and/or collaborators from outside CHS. No more than one proposal may be submitted by any one team and/or PI.

**Key Dates and Administrative Requirements**

- Funding announcement release: January 27, 2025.
- Application deadline is 5pm EST Friday May 16, 2025.
- Awards will be announced by Friday June 13, 2025. IRB approval for the project will be required before funds are released.
- The funding period will be from August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026.
- Final reports for each funded project will be due on August 31, 2026.
- All funds must be spent by July 31, 2026 unless an extension is granted.
- Manuscripts and presentations from research supported through this award should acknowledge the Maggie E. Neumann Health Sciences Research Fund, College of Health Sciences, University of Delaware.
- All grantees are required to present study results (can include in-progress findings) at the College of Health Sciences Research and Innovation Day 2026, and to the Maggie E. Neumann Fund donors.

### **How to Apply**

Proposals should be no more than five pages in length (Arial or Times New Roman, 11pt font, 1.0 margins). The five pages include the following sections:

- Specific Aims
- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach

Items that do not count towards the five-page limit:

- References/Literature Cited
- Itemized project budget (in tabular form) and justification (not to exceed one page, no specific format required. Please include expected in-kind support/contributions)
- Principal Investigator(s) and Co-Investigator biosketches (NIH format)
- Letters of Support: Letters from collaborating community organization(s) and/or commercial partners are encouraged. Letters should speak to the role of the collaborator in the proposed project and past work with the applicant. Limit of three letters per proposal application (one page each).

Please submit the five-page research proposal and references, project budget, budget justification, and letters of support in a single PDF. The Maggie E. Neumann Health Sciences Research Fund proposal does not require administrative review from the CHS grants office prior to submission, nor do they need to be notified of your submission.

As a condition of funding, all proposals must receive IRB approval before data collection begins.

Electionic Submission can be done here: <http://www.udel.edu/0012839>

### **Use of Grant Funds**

Funds may be used to pay for project staff salary and benefits, consultant fees, supplies and other direct expenses related to program activities (e.g., local travel, incentives for participants). Funds may not be used to support the salary or benefits of faculty or postdoctoral fellows. The purchase of equipment will only be supported if it is demonstrated that there is no other way for the research team to access necessary equipment other than direct purchase.

### **Contact**

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