

Request for Applications

Research Awards for the Study of the Economics of AD/ADRD

Funding Opportunity READ-27

Key Dates:

Request for Applications – Released

March 30, 2026

Informational Webinar

May 29, 2026 @ 11:00am ET

Application Due

June 30, 2026 @ 11:59pm ET

Scientific Merit Review

July-August 2026

Project Start Date

September 1, 2026

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Program Overview

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has funded the NBER Coordinating Center [U54AG090084] as part of its Consortium for Economic Research on Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Alzheimer's Disease–Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) Prevention, Treatment and Care to advance the field of economic research in dementia care. This new initiative establishes a Coordinating Center and a network of research teams across the United States to better understand and address the economic impact of dementia on patients and their families, health care systems and society, including policies that may improve prevention, treatment and care of people living with dementia and their caregivers. The NBER Coordinating Center fosters collaborations to generate economic and policy-relevant research and to facilitate translation of this research into practice. Further details about the Coordinating Center may be found at the following linked page:

[NBER Coordinating Center on the Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias \(AD/ADRD\) Prevention, Treatment and Care](#)

The NBER Coordinating Center focuses on questions with major economic implications—such as how new treatments and care models are adopted, how different payment systems affect access and quality, and how to ensure that resources are used wisely to support individuals and families affected by AD/ADRD. By generating rigorous economic evidence through 1-year research projects, it aims to inform the design of more effective, accessible, and financially sustainable approaches to AD/ADRD prevention, treatment, and care.

Funding Opportunity Description

The NBER Coordinating Center invites applications for innovative, high-impact research projects that study the economic impact of dementia on patients and their families, health care systems and society, including policies that may improve prevention, treatment or care. All proposals must directly inform the economics of AD/ADRD and be designed for completion within one year. One-time extensions may be granted to awardees who experience unforeseen challenges such as data acquisition delays outside of their control.

The awards are for up to \$200,000 in total costs (i.e. including both direct and indirect costs) and are non-renewable. Individual investigators are limited to one application in each funding cycle. All work must be carried out within the United States.

NIH grants policies as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) will apply to the awards made from this funding opportunity.

The NBER Coordinating Center expects to award up to five applications through a competitive review process.

Research Focus Areas

The NBER Coordinating Center invites applications across a range of topic areas. Potential areas of investigation may include, but are not limited to:

- Policy and payment models that impact access to and quality of long-term services and supports for people living with dementia.

- Economic impact of caregiving for people living with dementia for individuals, families and workforce at the national-, regional-, and/or state-level.
- Economic and labor market factors, including household as well as economy-wide factors, that impact the recruitment, training, and retention of healthcare workers in the dementia care workforce.
- Investigations of how institutional factors in health care delivery and/or finance systems influence access, utilization, and outcomes for PLWD and their families.
- Economic modeling of the future costs and impacts of AD/ADRD, ranging from studies at the household to the national aggregate level, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and real-world data to enhance forecasting and analysis.
- Economic impact of prevention and management strategies for dementia, as well as the use of economic incentives, to modify individual or institutional actions.
- Investigations of the relationship between labor force participation and other aspects of employment over time on dementia risk and health outcomes.
- Economic aspects of drug development for dementia treatments, including the costs, incentives, and barriers associated with discovering and bringing new drugs to market, including issues of resultant access and coverage for patients.

This funding opportunity will not support intervention studies and clinical trials, cost-effectiveness studies, or other clinical investigations.

Topics of particular interest in this funding round include:

- **Valuing interventions and innovations in care and treatment:** Studies of the economic value of timely and accurate diagnosis, emerging diagnostic tools, newly approved and anticipated AD drug treatments, secondary prevention strategies (e.g., hearing aids, nutrition, physical activity), and the potential role of AI assistive tools in extending home residence, reducing caregiver burden, and enhancing prevention, treatment, and care.
- **Policy, financing, and system-level drivers of cost and access:** Studies assessing variation and experimentation in Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and private insurance; the infrastructure needs and economic value of innovations in skilled nursing and assisted living; and how limited public awareness about Medicare's (lack of) coverage for long-term care affects outcomes.
- **Heterogeneity in disease experience and risk:** Studies examining the economic implications of heterogeneity in disease progression, longevity with AD/ADRD, individual-specific risk prediction, treatment and care burden in the absence of family support, and the effects of actual declines in age-specific dementia rates on projections of, and planning for, the future population of individuals living with AD/ADRD.

Informational Webinar

An optional 30-minute informational webinar will be hosted to provide investigators with an overview of application details and an opportunity to ask questions. Pre-registration is required using the link below. The session will be recorded and posted online on the Coordinating Center home page.

- **Friday, May 29, 2026 11:00AM ET:** [Register here](#) for the webinar.

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a faculty or research scientist position or be otherwise eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator as determined by their institution. Graduate students are not eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for this funding opportunity. Eligible institutions include colleges, universities, medical or nursing schools, health care systems or settings, or other fiscally responsible non-profit organizations within the US. Eligible institutions must have a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#), which has replaced the DUNS Number as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide. No research may be performed outside of the United States.
- Eligible applicants may submit no more than one application to this funding opportunity.
- The Principal Investigator on an application for this READ funding opportunity may not apply concurrently for our companion EC-READ funding opportunity (Early-Career Research Awards for the Study of the Economics of AD/ADRD). However, an EC-READ applicant may be a collaborator on your READ application.
- NBER Research Affiliates and Faculty Research Fellows interested in applying should contact ardr@nber.org.

Budget Considerations

Budgets are for one year only and up to \$200,000 in total costs (direct plus indirect costs). The budget must adhere to NIH guidelines for allowable costs and should include sufficient detail to justify all proposed expenses. All costs must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the proposed research activities.

Do not include travel costs for the PI and one co-investigator to attend the required in-person Annual Meeting in Bethesda, MD or the annual Consortium Investigator Meeting at NBER in Cambridge, MA. **These expenses will be covered by the NBER Coordinating Center.**

For investigators affiliated with the NBER, subawards are strongly discouraged. Please contact ardr@nber.org as soon as possible, and no later than **June 15, 2026**, for assistance in developing a budget for the submission.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF, with sections ordered as specified below, by visiting the following linked page.

[Application Submission Page](#)

The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday, June 30, 2026 11:59pm ET**. Applicants are encouraged to submit early to avoid last-minute technical issues. To ensure fairness to all applicants, late submissions will not be accepted.

Required Application Structure and Format

Applications must use Arial 11-point font, with a minimum of ½ inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left and right). When specified, applicants should use the appropriate [PHS 398 Forms](#). The application must follow the general format of an NIH R21 grant, with additional sections specified below in this funding opportunity. Applications that do not adhere to these formatting and submission guidelines may not be reviewed.

- **Cover Page (1 page):** Include the project title and the following information for the investigators and any named consultants: name, academic degrees, title or position, institutional affiliation and project roles.
- **General Audience Summary** (max 500 words)
- **Specific Aims (up to 1 page):** The Aims page should concisely state the overall goal of the project, its significance, and the specific aims the research will accomplish. It should highlight the central hypothesis, the rationale, and how the aims address a critical problem or gap in knowledge related to the economics of AD/ADRD. Each aim should be clearly defined, feasible, and logically connected to the overall goal. The Aims page should end with a section that clearly describes how the proposed project will advance understanding of the economics of AD/ADRD.
- **Research Plan (4 pages)**
 - Background and Significance
 - Implications for the Economics of AD/ADRD: Applicants must include a section that clearly describes how the proposed project will contribute to the evidence on the Economics of AD/ADRD.
 - Preliminary Studies (if applicable)
 - Research Design and Methods: Include the following: 1) Data source, 2) Study population, 3) Analytic plan for each Specific Aim, including modeling strategy and sample size justification, and 4) Potential problems and alternative strategies.
 - Timeline and Deliverables: Specify a timeline and deliverables that are specific, measurable, and achievable by which your progress can be reviewed. This funding mechanism requires one or more submitted publications by the end of the project period.
- **Bibliography and References Cited (limit to 2 pages)**
- **Biosketches:** [NIH Biosketch forms](#) are required for the PI, all Key Personnel, and any consultants, if applicable. An example can be found [here](#).

- **Budget and Budget Justification:** Submit [PHS 398 Form Page 4](#) and [checklist](#) to provide a detailed budget for the one-year budget period. Include a detailed **Budget Justification** that clearly explains and justifies all proposed expenses and specifies the institution's negotiated facilities and administrative rate or use of the de minimis rate.
- Provide a conflict-of-interest statement describing any financial or other interests of the research team that might bear on the proposed project.

Scientific Merit and Final Review

Applications will be reviewed by at least two non-conflicted scientific reviewers and one of the Coordinating Center's Core leaders. Scientific review and merit ratings will be conducted following a process aligned with NIH peer review standards using review criteria outlined in the appendix.

Since the Coordinating Center is funded by NIA all applications recommended for funding will undergo final review and approval by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) Program Officer (PO) responsible for the Coordinating Center.

Information for READ Award Grant Recipients

Award recipients of the Research Awards for the Study of the Economics of AD/ADRD (READ) Grant Program are expected to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Adhere to IRB and [Data and Resource Sharing](#) policies. Human subjects research cannot commence without IRB approval.
2. Complete Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) assurance and training as detailed under the NBER or the other host organization's policy and in accordance with PHS ([42 CFR Part §50.604](#)) FCOI regulations.
3. Engage in the NBER Coordinating Center for Economic Research on AD/ADRD scientific community, including:
 - a. Participating in the academic, training and networking activities of the Coordinating Center.
 - b. Attending and presenting at the in-person Annual Scientific Meeting in Bethesda, MD.
 - c. Attending and presenting at the in-person NBER Consortium Investigator Meeting in Cambridge, MA.
4. Support the training and development of the next generation of researchers in economics of AD/ADRD by being willing to serve as potential mentors for early career researchers affiliated with the Coordinating Center if/when suitable mentor-mentee matches are identified. This may include occasional consultation, guidance on research design, or participation in Consortium-sponsored mentorship activities, as appropriate.
5. Submit progress and financial reports as may be required.
6. Follow NBER invoicing guidelines.
7. Adhere to the timelines for deliverables specified in the award application, which includes one or more publications at the end of the one-year project period.

8. Acknowledge sponsorship in all presentations, publications, and subsequent grants stemming from this Award.
9. Respond to NBER Coordinating Center queries for information after the project ends.

Questions?

Please email all questions to adrd@nber.org.

Appendix: Scientific Review Criteria

Overall Impact Score

Integration of Criteria: What is the potential for the proposed study to advance (or contribute to) our understanding of the economics of AD/ADRD in a meaningful way?

1. Significance

Relevance to the Economics of AD/ADRD: Does the project clearly address critical economic issues associated with AD/ADRD?

Relevance to priority areas: How well does the project align with the list of research priorities specified in this call for proposals?

Potential for Impact: What is the potential for the findings to influence policy, healthcare delivery, economic systems, or quality of life for people living with AD/ADRD and/or their caregivers?

2. Approach

Scientific Rigor: Are the study design, methodology, and analytic plan robust, appropriate, and well-justified?

3. Feasibility and Output

Feasibility: Is the scope of work realistic and achievable within the 1-year project period and budget?

Manuscript: Will the project result in at least one manuscript ready for submission by the end of the 1-year project period? Will it support subsequent grant applications by the investigator(s)?

4. Investigators and Environment

Expertise: Does the investigative team have the necessary expertise in economics, AD/ADRD research, and any interdisciplinary areas relevant to the project (e.g., health economics, policy analysis)? Are there appropriate personnel in place to effectively address the complex dimensions of economics of AD/ADRD?

Research Environment: Does the research environment appear to provide adequate support to accomplish the project's goals during the 1-year project period (e.g., computational resources)?

5. Data and Resources

Access to Data: Does the applicant have access to appropriate datasets to support the analysis (e.g., Medicare data, Social Security data, surveys like the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS), National Dementia Workforce Study (NDWS), the NIA Data Linkage enclave, etc.); and can these datasets be accessed in a sufficiently timely manner to complete the project within one year?