



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Framingham Heart Study Brain Aging Program (FHS-BAP) Pilot Grants

The Boston University Framingham Heart Study Brain Aging Program (FHS-BAP) is soliciting proposals for innovative research on Alzheimer's disease (AD), AD-related dementias (ADRD), and brain aging using existing FHS data.

We particularly encourage studies examining AD/ADRD risk and resilience, with an emphasis on vascular and inflammatory factors, and studies integrating genetic, genomic, digital cognitive data, clinical, biomarker, imaging, neuropathological, behavioral, epidemiological, and/or exposome data.

Proposed research must include a major component involving analysis of existing FHS data and fall within the scientific scope of the NIH grant supporting the FHS-BAP. Projects may include longitudinal analyses, multimodal data integration, gene–environment or gene–protein interactions, identification of protective genetic or molecular factors, and harmonization of FHS data with other cohorts or datasets. Innovative computational and statistical approaches to FHS data are also encouraged.

We strongly encourage applicants to contact the FHS-BAP Pilot Grant Program directors:

Dr. Kathryn Lunetta (klunetta@bu.edu) or Dr. Wendy Qiu (wqiu67@bu.edu)

before submitting an application to discuss the scientific scope, data availability, and feasibility of the proposed project.

It is anticipated that two proposals of up to \$25,000 in direct costs for one-year, non-renewable projects will be awarded. Pilot grants are intended to support new research directions and generate preliminary data, publications, or collaborations that can lead to future external funding. They are not intended to support large undertakings by established investigators or to augment ongoing research projects that are already funded.

Eligibility

Proposals are encouraged particularly from early-stage investigators, including postdoctoral associates and faculty at the instructor and assistant professor levels, and from investigators new to AD/ADRD or brain-aging research who wish to apply expertise from other fields to FHS data. Collaborative and multidisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

Proposals to conduct research requiring **use or new collection of FHS biospecimens** are beyond the scope of this program.

For an overview of FHS data relevant to brain aging, see [FHS-BAP Data Management](#).

Applications should include

1. **Specific aims and research proposal** (maximum 3 pages total, excluding references)
2. **Key personnel biosketch(es)**
3. **Detailed budget and justification**
4. **Letter of support from primary advisor** (for postdoctoral applicants only)

Please use NIH PHS 398 forms for the submitted materials.

Email a single PDF containing the required components by **February 1, 2027** to medudek@bu.edu.

Review process

At least two content experts will review and score each proposal based on scientific significance, innovation, rigor and feasibility, investigator expertise, and appropriate use of FHS resources. The FHS-BAP Steering Committee will make funding decisions based on scientific merit, program priorities, data feasibility, and potential to establish new research directions and support future external funding by April 1, 2027. The anticipated start date of funded projects is May 1, 2027.