



Center for Healthcare Delivery Sciences
Department of Medicine
Brigham and Women's Hospital and
Harvard Medical School
1620 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120

Notice of Funding Opportunity: Behavioral Intervention Trials

The Brigham and Women's Hospital Roybal Center for Therapeutic Optimization Using Behavioral Science (funded through NIA [RFA-AG-24-006](#)) seeks to develop and test principle-driven, potent, practical, scalable, and sustainable behavioral interventions to enhance the appropriate prescribing of and adherence to evidence-based medications with the goal of improving the lives of midlife and older people.

We are pleased to issue a [call for proposals](#) for randomized clinical trials that test behavioral interventions aimed at improving evidence-based medication use. These trials should measure clinically-relevant outcomes and should aim to generate strong preliminary data for follow-on funding. For the upcoming year, we will support 2-3 projects with a **maximum annual direct cost of \$200,000**. Most projects will be funded for a 12-month period, starting **June 1, 2025** (pending NIA approval), although projects of up to 24-months will also be considered.

Eligibility

Eligible investigators include, but are not limited to, [Early Stage Investigators \(ESIs\)](#) and established investigators from academic, non-profit or corporate institutions. Applicants who are underrepresented minorities and applicants who have not previously received funding through the BWH Roybal Center for Therapeutic Optimization Using Behavioral Science are particularly encouraged to apply. Eligibility for investigators outside of the US is based on NIH policies listed in the [NIA Roybal RFA](#) and as further detailed in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#). Collaboration with individuals who have experience successfully conducting pragmatic clinical trials of behavioral interventions, including with Center affiliated faculty, is strongly recommended for all applications.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated using criteria: (1) the significance of the medication use problem being addressed including its potential to promote healthy aging; (2) the strength and novelty of the principle-driven behavioral intervention being evaluated including the rigor of supporting preliminary data; (3) the scientific approach including the appropriateness of the study outcomes, how mechanisms of actions will be evaluated and whether novel analytic methods and technological approaches are used to gain a deeper understanding of mechanisms of behavior and to facilitate the creation of interventions that are personalized but applicable to population health improvement; (4) the feasibility that the study can be carried out; (5) the quality, diversity and complementarity of the investigative team, including experience in conducting trials; and (6) the potential to lead to follow-on funding, such as an R01. Examples of successfully funded projects can be found [here](#).

Application Process

For the first phase of the trial review process, please submit a letter of intent (LOI) containing:

1. General Information

- a) Descriptive title of proposed activity
- b) Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PI(s)
- c) Names of other key personnel and participating institution(s)
- d) Estimated budget (total direct and indirect)



2. **Research Strategy** (maximum 2-pages, single-spaced pages with one-inch margins) containing the following information:
 - a) Description and significance of the medication-use problem being addressed
 - b) Proposed behavioral intervention, its theoretical underpinnings and hypothesized mechanism of behavior change for the problem being
 - c) Brief description of research design including study design, subject eligibility criteria, intervention description, primary outcomes and method to evaluate mechanism of behavior change
 - d) Proposed study setting and timelines
 - e) Summary of qualifications of the investigative team
3. **NIH Biosketch:** An NIH format biographical sketch must be submitted for the PI(s) and all Co-Is. Please follow this link for [biosketch instructions and samples](#).

We would be pleased to meet with prospective applicants interested in discussing proposal ideas. Please email us at c4hds@bwh.harvard.edu to request a consultation.

The LOI should be submitted via email to c4hds@bwh.harvard.edu by **November 1, 2024, 5pm ET**. Highly-ranked LOIs will be notified that they have been invited to submit a full application by the first week of December 2024.

Full application will be due **January 6, 2025**. Prior to this date, those invited to the full proposal stage will be required to meet with the BWH Roybal Center Behavioral Intervention Development (BID) Core to discuss their study design and plans for the conduct of the proposed trials

Awarded pilot projects are anticipated to begin **June 1, 2025**, pending NIA approval.

