

CALL FOR PROPOSALS & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

University of Kentucky/Washington University Diabetes Research Center Collaborative Pilot & Feasibility Awards

Grant Submission Deadline – November 3, 2025, 5PM local time
Anticipated Funding Start – April 1, 2026

Availability & Purpose of Funds

The Washington University Diabetes Research Center (DRC) anticipates funding new Pilot & Feasibility Awards through an ongoing collaborative program with the University of Kentucky starting 4/01/2026. The contact Principal Investigator of this program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is Dr. Philip Kern. The goal of this program is to develop preliminary data leading to the submission of new applications for independent (NIH, JDRF, or ADA) research grants.

Qualifications

- The following qualify for grant support under the Pilot & Feasibility Program:
 - **New faculty members** involved in diabetes-related research, who have not yet obtained independent funding. Applications from these individuals are most likely to be supported by this mechanism.
 - **Established investigators not involved in diabetes-related research** who propose feasibility studies related to diabetes.
- Applicants must hold a faculty appointment and be independent investigators in any department at University of Kentucky. Postdoctoral Fellows or their equivalents are not eligible. For those applicants who hold a mentored award (e.g., NIH K01, K08, Scientist Development Grant, etc.) or who have indicated that a senior scientist will serve as a mentor, the application should be accompanied by the *mentor's other support page and a letter* from the mentor stating that the proposed project is independent of the mentor's research program.
- There is no specific citizenship requirement.
- Previous recipients of Pilot & Feasibility support are eligible, but priority will be given to those who have not been supported by this program.

Budget Guidelines

- Grants of up to \$38,000 (direct costs) for one year will be awarded.
- It is expected that the grantee will use the full amount of funding awarded during the one-year term of the award. Special permission is required to carry forward remaining funds at the year-end and is not automatically granted.
- Up to 10% salary support for faculty will be considered if the amount is <25% of the total award.
- The budget *may not* include funds for computers, software, travel, journal subscriptions, memberships to professional societies or the purchase of printed reference materials.

Review

- Applications are evaluated by external reviewers and the Diabetes Research Center Pilot & Feasibility Review Committee which includes representation from both Washington University and University of Kentucky.

General Guidelines

- NIH [PHS 398 \(03/2020\)](#) non-modular format (see below for specific instructions).
- **An entire copy of the proposal must be e-mailed as a single pdf document to [Dr. Philip Kern](#) by 5 pm local time on November 3, 2025.** Subject line: "DRC PF application University of Kentucky,"

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- Applications do **NOT** need to go through the Office of Sponsored Projects at the University of Kentucky.
- Successful proposals must be approved, if applicable, by the Human Studies, Animal Studies, Biosafety, and Radiation Safety Committees. Regulatory approvals may be “Pending” at the time of application.

For applications to be considered, please include the following, [PHS398 \(03/2020\) Form Pages \(in order\)](#):

1. Face Page (fp1)
2. Description/Abstract (fp2)
3. Detailed budget (fp4)
4. Budget for entire period with justification (fp5)
5. NIH Biosketch (5-page max)
6. Other Support (continuation page)
7. Resources
8. Specific Aims and Research Plan that together do not exceed 5 pages (including tables and figures, excluding references). Please address Significance, Innovation, and Approach. (Use NIH Continuation pages for this section.)
9. Appendix is required and must include (in order):
 1. Cover Letter from applicant, outlining eligibility
 2. Letter from Department Head or Division Chief endorsing the project.
 3. Mentor's letter and other support page, if required. See above eligibility guidelines.
 4. Regulatory Approvals for the proposed project should be secured (or pending at the time of application) from the Human Research Protection Office, Animal Studies Committee, Environmental Health & Safety, and/or Radiation Safety.
 5. List of (6) Reviewers outside the University of Kentucky, who are free of conflict of interest. Do not include collaborators, co-authors, or mentors. Provide name, position, institution, address, phone number and email.

Requirements for Pilot & Feasibility Award Recipients

- a) DRC support will be acknowledged on all publications related to Pilot & Feasibility Award (P30DK020579).
- b) Comply with the revised [NIH Public Access Policy](#).
- c) Recipients are invited to present posters at the annual WashU Diabetes Day Symposium held each November. Travel will be arranged and limited financial support is provided by the WashU DRC Administrative Core, on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- d) Recipients will assist the DRC in collecting follow-up data regarding their career progression.

In addition, all DRC P&F supported projects, especially those conducting non-exempt human subjects research, will be required to:

- e) Submit planned enrollment/inclusion data in the Humans Subjects System (HSS).
- f) Register all clinical trials in [clinicaltrials.gov](#) and deposit the results according to [clinicaltrials.gov](#) regulations.

Questions: Contact [Dr. Philip Kern](#) (University of Kentucky) or [Reid Kenney](#) (WashU Med).