



NRPA Centers Application

The Neuroscience Research Priority Area recognizes that teams develop focused on defined areas of research with needs that are currently not supported through other mechanisms. The NRPA will consider support for selected NRPA Centers to address this gap. One example might be a College of Medicine Alliance-type group that reaches the end of its time-limited period of support, although NRPA Center support will be considered for any other collaborative group that meets the outlined criteria.

CRITERIA

- Cohesive group focused on the neurosciences involving multiple departments. Applications must have engagement from faculty from at least 2 Colleges,
- The application must explain how the requested support will be used to support the collaborative research team.
- Demonstration that the support for specific activities within the above context is not available through other sources or funding mechanisms.
- Clear plan showing how the center would support applications for new or renewed external funding.
- Plan for mentoring junior faculty specifying mentoring team and including how they are and/or will be included in current or future grant applications.
- Demonstration of a commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Provision of a detailed budget not to exceed \$20,000 annually. Identification of matching funds is encouraged. However, it is recognized that group needs may vary and the NRPA will consider higher levels of funding with a compelling justification. The budget and budget justification should clearly reflect how and where the funds will be used.
- Submission of an annual report including outcome metrics specified in the agreement as proposed by the awardee (e.g. extramural grant submissions, peer reviewed publications)
- Acknowledgment of NRPA support in publications.

FUNDING

- Support is generally for one year subject to annual review.
- The award does not include indirect costs.
- NRPA Centers may also apply for NRPA Pilot and Equipment awards.

ELIGIBILITY

- Center directors/co-directors must be full time faculty at the University of Kentucky.
- Funds can only be used to support activities within the University of Kentucky.



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please respond to each element below as completely as possible. Where appropriate, bullet points may be used. The proposal should be in 11 pt. Arial font with 0.5 inch margins. Citations will not count against the page limits defined below. All application components should be compiled into a single PDF document and submitted to the NRPA's Research Program Manager at susannahmstitzer@uky.edu. Applications must be submitted by **December 31, 2021 at 5pm.**

Proposals will be evaluated by reviewers selected from different disciplines. As such, applications should be written in a manner that is understandable and compelling to non-specialists.

Application Checklist

- Contact Information
- Table of Affiliated Faculty
- Proposal including:
 - Narrative
 - Center Plan and Use of Funds
 - Timeline
 - Membership
 - Budget
- Director and co-director (if applicable) biosketches
- Letters of Support for the Director/Co-Director from their department indicating support for this effort

CONTACT INFORMATION

Center Name:

Amount of Funding Requested:

Center Director Contact Information

Name: _____ Email: _____

College/Department: _____ Phone: _____

Center Co-Director (if applicable) Contact Information

Name: _____ Email: _____

College/Department: _____ Phone: _____



AFFILIATED FACULTY: In the table below, please list all faculty associated with the proposed Center and indicate their role/specific involvement. List awards received by participating faculty within the last 3 years; this should include the title, award amount, and funding agency. Indicate whether or not the grant is related to the group's shared research focus.

Last Name, First Name	College/Dept	Project Role	Recent Awards

PROPOSAL

1. Narrative (3 page limit)
 - a. Briefly describe the proposed Center's history and primary rationale.
 - i. Discuss the proposed Center's purpose and goals in the context of the interests of the members and why this Center provides added value. Include a brief description of how the Center will support collaborative research.
 - b. Summarize the achievements of the group to date. Identify critical barriers that Center support will address.
 - i. If the group has received funding previously, discuss how that funding was utilized and any related outcomes.
 - c. Describe how the Center will promote applications for extramural support.
 - d. Discuss the Center's long-term vision and plans for self-sustainability.
 - i. Identify partnerships and other UK resources available to support the Center (i.e. matching funds)
2. Center Plan and Use of Funds (3 page including 1 page timeline)
 - a. Describe the work plan the Center intends to undertake and its expected outcomes. Clearly identify key milestones and objectives the group aims to achieve over the funding period. The plan should also include how critical barriers will be addressed.
 - b. Discuss the current need for funding and why funding for the designated activities/infrastructure is not available from other funding sources or funding mechanisms.
 - c. Describe how NRPA funding will be utilized to attain the Center's goals.
 - d. Provide a timeline that includes the Center's anticipated milestones and planned submissions (e.g., grants, publications, conferences, etc.) Include PARs and submission deadlines. Applicants should be specific and provide clearly delineated strategies for pursuing extramural funding. (1 page)
3. Membership (1 page)
 - a. Discuss the overall composition of the Center including any management structure.
 - b. Describe the mentorship and engagement of junior faculty within the Center; identify faculty serving as mentors and describe how the Center is incorporating junior faculty into their current and future grant applications. Where applicable, include how students and trainees are incorporated.



- c. Applicants are expected to have a clear and demonstrable commitment to diversity and inclusion; briefly describe the group's approach and how they intend to continue fostering an inclusive and diverse membership.
4. Budget (1 page)
 - a. Provide a detailed budget identifying how funds will be utilized (not to exceed 1 page). Specify the activities and infrastructure that will be developed and the associated costs.
 - i. Funding may not be used for indirect costs, tuition, renovations, or capital expenses.
 - ii. Travel expenses are allowed but must have sufficient justification.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES: Short-form biographical sketches are required for Director, Co-Director (if applicable) and other Key Personnel. The bio-sketches are not to exceed two pages and should be attached at the end of the proposal.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT: The Director and Co-Director must submit a letter of support from their department.

EVALUATION: In addition to satisfaction of the above-mentioned criteria, reviewers for the Centers program are asked to consider the following in their evaluations:

- Strength of the proposal's planned use of funds and its relation to the Center's long-term vision; do the proposed plans prepare the team for future external funding opportunities?
- Importance of NRPA funding. To what extent is NRPA funding vital for the collaboration and will enhance the Center's competitiveness in securing external funding? Does the proposal clearly describe and justify the proposed use of funds? Is the budget appropriate for the proposed work?
- Potential for success. What is the likelihood the proposed work will be completed and achieve the desired outcomes within the projected timeframe? Does the broad importance of the problems being addressed and the make up of the team confer a distinct competitive advantage over time?
- Organizational and management structure. Is the Center's approach appropriate for the proposed work? Does its structure and membership encourage optimal interaction among members?
- Incorporation of early-career faculty and commitment to Diversity & Inclusion. Does the Center present an opportunity for meaningful engagement and development of early-career faculty? Does the Center's structure include and promote a diverse, inclusive membership?
- Intellectual significance of the Center's focus. What is its ambition and scope? What is the Center's potential to advance neuroscience scholarship at UK and beyond? Does the collaboration represent innovative practice in its members disciplines and sub-fields? Do investigators have complementary and integrated expertise? Will the collaboration produce outcomes more valuable than the sum of individual efforts of project members?