



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

School of Medicine

INDIANA ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTER PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM

The NIAAA-supported Indiana Alcohol Research Center (IARC) is soliciting proposals for pilot projects from investigators who want to develop research on alcohol use disorders. Applications pertinent to basic mechanisms of alcohol misuse, neurophysiological and behavioral phenotypes of drinking, and genetic underpinnings of alcohol preference are welcome. The purpose of an IARC pilot grant is to allow an investigator to obtain preliminary data leading to extramural funding. Previous experience in research on alcoholism is not required.

Pilot projects are limited to \$50,000 for two years (\$100,000 total cost; salary support for the principal investigator is allowed up to 5% effort). Up to two projects will be funded this funding period (December 1, 2027 – November 30, 2029). Funding is contingent upon the renewal of the IARC for the next cycle.

Submission instructions:

- 1) A letter of intent (LOI) is required:** Send an e-mail to dkareken@iu.edu indicating the intention to submit a project, proposal title and a few sentences describing the project **by August 1, 2026**.
- 2) You will be sent a personal link to a OneDrive folder containing the application form. Each applicant will be given a separate OneDrive folder.
- 3) Download and fill out the word document from the OneDrive site.
- 4) Append the relevant NIH biosketches to the completed Word application form and create a single PDF file.
- 5) The application deadline is September 1, 2026.** Upload the PDF to the respective folder no later than midnight, September 1, 2026.

The Specific Aims and Research Plan are limited to 2 pages total. Applications exceeding this page limit and/or including additional materials to circumvent the page limit will not be considered.

The Specific Aims and Research Plan must include the following:

1. Specific Aims:
Goals of the research, expected outcomes/impact on the research field(s), objectives
2. Significance
Importance of the problem, how this line of research will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, etc. Explain how and why the preliminary data obtained *will support an extramural proposal for the broader line of research*.
3. Innovation
Describe novel approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, etc., and any advantage over existing ones; how the application challenges/seek to shift current research.
4. Approach
Overall strategy, methodology and analyses; how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted; potential problems, alternative strategies; include any preliminary studies, data, and prior experience with the proposed methods.
5. Application Plans
Briefly describe plans/timeline to apply for extramural funding related to the pilot project, including the targeted funding source(s)
6. Connection with IARC
Describe how this pilot project is related to the IARC scientific program and/or uses center resources, such as the selected lines of alcohol-preferring animals and the computerized alcohol infusion system (CAIS) for the administration of ethanol (<https://medicine.iu.edu/research-centers/alcohol>).

The funding of the IARC pilot project program is conditional on continued support from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as approval of recommended proposals by the Program Officer. Questions should be directed to Karmen Yoder at kkyoder@iu.edu or dkareken@iu.edu.