

# **JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund**

## **FY23 (Letter of Intent)**

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### **Dates**

**Internal Submission Deadline:** Friday, March 17, 2023

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### **Details**

**Administrator(s): Jennifer Jones**

**Category:** Internal Funding Initiatives (University of Iowa Applicants)

**Cycle:** Fiscal Year 2023

**Number of Applications**

**Allowed per Applicant:** 1

**Full Proposal Due:** May 14, 2023 (by invitation only)

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### **Description**

The Barbara and Richard Csomay Center of Gerontological Excellence within the University of Iowa College of Nursing seeks collaborative, 18-month JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund community engaged proposals with awards up to \$50k (smaller projects are encouraged) to assist in creating and solidifying community research and scholarship partnerships related to older adults and aging within Iowa. The goal is to enable and sustain community engaged research and scholarship partnerships that reciprocally benefit the University and Iowa older adults.

### **Important Dates**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>March 17, 2023</b>       | <b>LOI Deadline</b>             |
| <b>April 7, 2023</b>        | <b>Invitation to Submit</b>     |
| <b>May 14, 2023</b>         | <b>Application Deadline</b>     |
| <b>Week of June 1, 2023</b> | <b>Teams Notified</b>           |
| <b>July 19, 2023</b>        | <b>Project Start Date</b>       |
| <b>February 18, 2025</b>    | <b>Final Project Report Due</b> |
| <b>May 18, 2025</b>         | <b>Draft Proposal Due</b>       |

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**To submit a LOI please see page 8 for link.**

**Questions:** Contact Jennifer Jones, [jennifer-e-jones@uiowa.edu](mailto:jennifer-e-jones@uiowa.edu), 319-335-0835.

**JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund  
Community Engaged Proposals**  
**Budget Template**

In the template below, complete the budget categories. The maximum award for the Thoreson Community Engaged program is \$50,000 over an 18-month period.

|  | <b>Amount (\$)</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Project Personnel</b><br><i>Describe Staff Personnel</i> <i>Describe Student Personnel</i>              | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Personnel</b>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Personnel Fringe</b><br><i>Describe Staff Personnel Fringe</i> <i>Describe Student Personnel Fringe</i> | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Fringe</b>  | \$ -               |
| <b>Equipment</b> <i>Describe Equipment</i>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Equipment</b>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Travel</b> <i>Describe Travel</i>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Travel</b>  | \$ -               |
| <b>Travel</b>  | \$ -               |
| <b>Other Costs</b> <i>Describe Other Costs</i>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Other Costs</b>   | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Project Costs</b>   | \$ -               |

**Budget**

This program provides up to \$50,000 (smaller projects are encouraged) in direct costs for an 18-month period.

- Subawards are not allowed.
- Faculty salary is allowed in the form of one course release or its equivalent. Strong justification regarding how the released time will be utilized is required.
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. Graduate tuition is allowed.
- Honoraria and consulting fees for community partners are allowed.
- Research subject participation payments are allowed.
- Community engagement events and associated costs are allowed.
- Travel is allowed but only if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for convening meetings.

### Required Template for Letters of Collaboration\*

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am listed as a collaborator on (or that I will cooperate in helping support the activities of) the proposal entitled “(proposal title),” with (PI name) as the Principal Investigator.

I agree to undertake the tasks associated with me as described in the project description of this proposal, and/or commit to provide or make available the resources designated in the proposal.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund**

### **FY23 Request for Proposals**

The Barbara and Richard Csomay Center of Gerontological Excellence within the University of Iowa College of Nursing seeks collaborative, 18-month JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund community engaged proposals with awards up to \$50k (smaller projects are encouraged) to assist in creating and solidifying community research and scholarship partnerships related to older adults and aging within Iowa. The goal is to enable and sustain community engaged research and scholarship partnerships that reciprocally benefit the University and Iowa older adults.

#### **JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund**

The JD and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund was established to advance discovery and adoption of age-friendly practices that promote self-care and provide access to health information using the latest technology. The fund is administered and used under the direction of the Barbara and Richard Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence. J.D. and Jill Thoreson, University of Iowa alumni, are from Mason City, Iowa. J.D. is a retired gastroenterology physician, serving Mason City for several years. Jill was a longtime family caregiver. Both J.D. and Jill are very passionate about healthy aging and hope that they can make a difference with this gift.

#### **Csomay Center Community Engagement Overview**

The mission of the Barbara and Richard Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence is to advance innovations in research, education, and practice to promote optimal aging and quality of life in all older adults and their caregivers. Our strategic plan has five pillars to help us achieve that mission – Advance age-friendly practices, Support an interprofessional pipeline, Maintain visibility and engagement, Build partnerships and collaborative networks, and Secure sustainable resources.

This RFP supports our efforts to build partnerships and collaborative networks through community engaged research. The RFP also aims to create new opportunities for pilot projects to gather data that enable long-term research partnerships sustained through external funding proposals. Partnerships should have a well-defined research question at the core of the relationship. This can include a wide range of questions including those related to dissemination and implementation. Contact the Csomay Center if help is needed in identifying community partners with whom to engage. The community partner should have substantial involvement in the study design and/or implementation. Projects may include, but are not limited to, testing small-scale interventions, conducting surveys and focus groups, or community analyses.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Any area of research and scholarly inquiry is welcome.
- Must have at least three team leaders: two University personnel and one community partner.
  - University Team Leaders
    - University team leaders must be UI faculty (tenure-track, clinical track, research track) or staff members for whom research and scholarship are assigned as one of their job responsibilities and have at least a 50% university appointment.
    - University team leaders must represent at least two colleges.
  - Iowa Community Partners Team Leaders
    - Must have at least one Iowa community partner/organization with substantial involvement in the study design and/or implementation.

- Existing partnerships are eligible, but the research and scholarships must be a new direction for the collaborators.
- Projects must involve community-dwelling Iowan older adults and/or their family caregivers or organizations which support this population.
- Projects must be within Iowa and be a *Community Engaged Research* or *Scholarship* project as described below in the next section.
- Priority will be given to applicants that advance discovery and adoption of age-friendly practices which promote self-care and provide access to health information using the latest technology.
- **A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by March 17, 2023. Please see page 8 for LOI submission link.**
- **Full proposals, by invitation only, are due May 14, 2023. A link for proposal submission will be sent to selected finalists.**

**Questions:** Contact Jennifer Jones, [jennifer-e-jones@uiowa.edu](mailto:jennifer-e-jones@uiowa.edu), 319-335-0835

\*Modified from the UI [Office of Community Engagement](#)

### **Community Engagement\***

Community engagement describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Community engaged research and scholarship provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students and their community partners to enhance the communities in which they live through partnerships that engage with scholarship and innovation in the arts, the sciences, healthcare, economic development, and the humanities.

*Community Engaged Research:* A collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and to the community.

*Community Engaged Scholarship:* The creation and dissemination of knowledge and creative expression in furtherance of the mission and goals of the university and the community. Community engaged scholarship addresses community needs through research, teaching, and service in a mutually beneficial partnership.

### **Required Award Outcomes**

- Collect feasibility/pilot data that enables competitive grant proposals.
- Provide a significant community impact.
- Successful partnership that enables future collaborations and external funding.

### **Letter of Intent**

A brief LOI is required ( $\leq$ 1 page, Arial 11-point font, 1" margins). LOIs will be reviewed by a panel of campus community engaged researchers with approximately 5 competitive concepts invited to submit full proposals. The LOI should include an abstract of the research and scholarship question, the community partners and their involvement, overall community impact, and at least two metrics for evaluation of the project's impact. Biosketches/CVs/resumes for team leaders must be submitted. No budget is required for the LOI. Please note the "Eligibility Criteria"; noncompliant LOIs will be returned without review.

### **Budget**

This program provides up to \$50,000 (smaller projects are encouraged) in direct costs for an 18-month period.

- Subawards are not allowed.
- Faculty salary is allowed in the form of a course release. Strong justification regarding how the released time will be utilized is required.
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. Graduate tuition is allowed.
- Honoraria and consulting fees for community partners are allowed.
- Research subject participation payments are allowed.
- Community engagement events and associated costs are allowed.
- Travel is allowed but only if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for convening meetings.

### **Proposal Guidelines**

All documents should be Arial, 11-point font, and 1" margins.

- Executive Summary (≤250 words; non-technical abstract)
- Proposal Narrative (≤4 pages)
  - Research Question
    - Describe the research question and its significance.
  - Community Partners
    - Describe the community partners that are a direct partner on the project.
  - Approach
    - Describe and justify the research data, methods, and measures employed.
  - Partnership
    - Describe community partners' involvement in the study design or implementation.  
What are the benefits of this partnership to each party?
  - Community Impact
    - Describe the potential community impact of the research. How will the research results impact the community?
  - Strategic Engagement
    - Describe your strategy to engage traditionally marginalized groups, early career faculty, and students in your research activities.
  - Evaluation
    - How is progress defined, measured, and evaluated?
    - Provide a timeline of activities and milestones.
- Sustainability Plan (<1 page)
  - Articulate the sustainability plan for the research (i.e., define federal or private funding target areas including specific agencies, programs, and grant solicitations). How will this work contribute to success with each identified funding source?
- Budget Spreadsheet (use budget template provided in the submission portal)
- Budget Justification (≤2 pages)
  - Line-item explanation of why the requested resources are needed.
- Letters of Collaboration (use template provided in submission portal)
  - NSF format must be used with no additional text allowed. All collaborations must be explained within the project narrative.
- Community Partner Information (≤1 page per community partner)
  - General information including history, mission, and work in the area.
- NIH/NSF bio sketches or brief CVs (<5 pages) for University team leaders and resumes for community partners.

### **Review Process and Criteria**

Proposals will be peer-reviewed by a group of senior campus researchers with experience in community engaged research and scholarship. It is encouraged to write towards a lay audience. The proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Significance
  - Does the proposed research have the potential for significant community and scholarly impact?
- Approach
  - Are the data, methods, measures, and overall approach well-articulated and viable? Are they grounded in community engaged research and scholarship literature and best practices? How is the team insuring against unintentional harm in partnerships with historically excluded groups?
- Community Engagement and Partners
  - Is there a clear description of the partnership(s) including roles of each partner? Is this a new partnership or a new research direction for the investigators and the community partners? Is there a clear description of community engagement strategies?
- Sustainability
  - Does the project develop opportunities for additional engagement with communities after the project is completed? Does the application articulate a compelling plan for securing extramural funding?
- Strategic Engagement
  - Does the proposal strategically engage historically excluded groups, early career faculty, or students?
- Investigators
  - Does the team have the required qualifications, accomplishments, and track record to accomplish the proposed work?

### **Reporting Requirements**

A final project report regarding the research and scholarly advances and community impact as well must be submitted by February 18, 2025. A draft external funding proposal should be submitted by May 18, 2025, as well. Further, brief annual reports for three years following the award are required, which will only ask about the number of proposals submitted/awarded, publications, and presentations. Further, at the end of the project year, the team must conduct a community survey regarding the partnership's impact.

### **FY23 Application Process and Timeline**

To submit your LOI please click here [LOI Submission Form Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative](#). Please email the Csomay Center at [csomay-center@uiowa.edu](mailto:csomay-center@uiowa.edu) with questions.

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
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