

2026 UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging UTHRO Endowment for Healthy Aging Geriatric Studies for Junior Faculty Program Request for Proposals

Description of Program

The UTHealth Houston Retiree Organization (UTHRO) Endowment for Healthy Aging will award a \$10,000 grant to support gerontology-focused research conducted by junior faculty at UTHealth Houston. This funding is intended to support pilot studies that strengthen faculty members' ability to secure larger extramural grants.

Criteria

1. Scope of Research

Project proposals must focus on aging-related issues, including clinical, basic science, health services, or policy research. Additionally, proposals may address specific concerns related to patients or caregivers. Submissions should be no longer than three pages and must include a summary written for a general audience.

2. Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Approach

In alignment with the guiding principles of the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging, proposed studies must be interdisciplinary and collaborative. When appropriate, research should reflect the ethnic diversity of Houston's community.

3. Eligibility and Mentorship

Preference will be given to proposals led by junior faculty investigators conducting innovative, previously unfunded research studies or community-based projects.

Junior faculty applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a senior faculty mentor during the proposal submission process and throughout the study. Proposals demonstrating clear involvement of a senior faculty mentor will receive a more favorable evaluation.

4. Applicant Membership Requirement

Applicants must be members of the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging. For more information, and to register, please fill out the form at <https://redcap.link/IOAmembership>

5. Budget and Funding Restrictions

A detailed budget must be included in the proposal. The following expenses **are not allowable**:

- Travel expenses
- Computer equipment
- Personal expenses
- Dinners or conference-related costs

Note: All awarded funds must be spent within the United States.

6. Application and Departmental Approval

The application does not require approval from the Office of Sponsored Projects and does not require Review and Approval (R&A) forms.

A brief statement of approval and the signature of the department chair are required.

7. Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

IRB approval must be obtained before funds can be disbursed to the awardee.

Note: IRB approval is not required at the time of proposal submission.

Requirements and Reporting

1. Study Completion

Recipients must complete their research studies within one year of receiving funding or demonstrate reasonable progress toward study completion.

2. Progress and Final Reports

A six-month status report must be submitted, detailing accomplishments, progress toward measurable goals, a breakdown of all expenditures, and the plan for the next six months.

A final one-year report must be submitted to both the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging and UTHRO.

3. Budget Modifications

Any significant budget changes must be reported to the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging.

4. Protocol Changes

Any significant changes to the study protocol must be reported to both the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging and the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

5. Dissemination of Results

Recipients are required to disseminate their research findings through at least one presentation and/or publication.

6. UTHRO Presentation

Awardees must participate in a presentation for UTHRO members at the conclusion of the research within the funding year.

Application Procedure

Application Deadline: August 15, 2026

Submission: Completed applications should be sent to **Jose Barrera** at Jose.a.barrera@uth.tmc.edu

Notification of Awards

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the UTHRO Endowment Committee and other experts deemed relevant to assess the scientific quality of the submissions.

The top three applicants will be invited to present their research proposals at a UTHRO Meeting on **September 24, 2026**, where UTHRO members will vote to select the final award recipient.

General Guidelines for Submissions

All submissions should include the following sections:

- A. Background
- B. Problem Statement
- C. Research Question(s) and Hypothesis(es) (if applicable)
- D. Methods
- E. Significance of the Proposed Study to the Field of Geriatrics and/or Gerontology
- F. Impact on the Geriatric Community
- G. How the Funding is Expected to Support Your Research Career
- H. Project Summary in lay terms

For further inquiries, please contact **Jose Barrera** at Jose.a.barrera@uth.tmc.edu