

2025-2026 PILOT PROGRAM

General Procedures & Guidelines

The Oklahoma Nathan Shock Center (OKNSC) is currently soliciting applications for three (3) types of pilot awards: 1) General Pilot Awards, 2) Translational Research Pilot Awards, and 3) Gene Discovery Pilot Awards. The General Pilot Awards and Translational Research Pilot Awards are designed to support the research of early-stage investigators, and that of senior investigators initiating research programs in aging or geroscience. For both, General Pilot Awards can serve as the basis for the development of new applications for NIH funding.

- The General Pilot Awards support only research projects relevant to the biology of aging and geroscience (the study of mechanisms linking aging to diseases associated with aging).
- The Translational Pilot Awards support translational studies, including those that utilize human biosamples or translational animal models with high potential impact and strong relevance to age-associated dysfunction and disease. The Gene Discovery Pilot Awards will be part of a separate request for proposals that will be advertised in the coming months.

All Pilot Award Projects funded through this request for applications should utilize the services and technologies provided by the OKNSC Research Cores ([Multiplexing Protein Analysis Core](#), [Genomic Sciences Core](#), [Geroscience Redox Biology Core](#), and [CRISPR Whole-Genome Screening Core](#)).

Consultation with Core Leaders to discuss feasibility, project details, and award budget is required for the application to be considered. Services of the Geroinformatics Resource at the Program Enrichment Core can be requested to complement studies performed in other OKNSC Cores.

Applications that propose to utilize OKNSC services/technologies in collaboration with other Shock Centers are strongly encouraged. The awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$20,000, depending on the specific research proposed. Applications from institutions outside of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and Oklahoma City VA Health Care System are also strongly encouraged.

Applications will be reviewed for their importance, the potential impact of the proposed research, its feasibility, and the likelihood of attracting federal or other external funding. Reviewers will also consider how the project supports the investigator's career growth and helps position them as leaders in aging and geroscience research. For mid-career investigators, special attention will be given to how the project supports career advancement, while for senior investigators, the focus will be on the impact of the research and its potential to start a new research direction in their laboratories.

Deadlines & Award Dates

All Applications Due: **November 5, 2025**

Award Date: **November 19, 2025**

Funding Period: **November 20, 2025- June 16, 2026**

Detailed Instructions can be found on the OK Nathan Shock Center Website:

<https://oklahomanathanshockcenteronaging.org/pilot-grant/>