\*\*\* Request for Pilot projects for the Emory Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) 2025 proposal\*\*\*\*\*\*

A team of investigators from Emory SOM, NHWSON, and RSPH are preparing a NIA P30 Older Americans Independence Center application due in mid-October. The team is seeking applications from interested investigators to be included in the application being prepared. We will include up to four proposed pilot/exploratory projects.

Background: The Emory Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) will pursue a two-fold mission: (1) to support research that includes *adaptation as a key concept in efforts* to promote independence of older adults before during and after care transitions, and (2) to enhance the skills of investigators to incorporate new methods and innovative interventions to promote adaptation into their scholarship. Adaptation means a process of change to become better suited to one’s environment. **Through innovative strategies to enhance adaptation before, during, and after care transitions, the Emory OAIC will focus on research aimed at building individual resilience while also enhancing the caregiving networks, clinical practice systems, and community supports that contribute to individuals being better suited to meet changing needs associated with aging.** Furthermore, Emory’s strong track record of community engagement will increase the opportunity to engage populations of older adults across multiple affiliated health systems (Emory Healthcare, Grady Health System, Atlanta VA Healthcare System).

Responsive applications: We are seeking applications that fit the overall theme, can be completed in 1-2 years, and require between $35K-50K/year. Pilots can include basic science, translational, health services and epidemiologic research. Primary data collection and/or secondary data analyses are acceptable.

Applications will be reviewed by the proposal team across all three schools by applying NIH scoring criteria on the proposal's approach, overall impact, and description of how the proposed adaptation effort will enhance older adult independence. Prioritized pilot applications will also consider opportunities to leverage the [Emory Healthy Aging Study](https://healthyaging.emory.edu/) (EHAS) cohort. Members of the OAIC Measurement, Analysis, and Design Core will offer two 1-hour office hour sessions via zoom at [10 AM on July 24th](https://zoom.us/j/99384409242?from=addon) and at [9 AM on July 25th](https://zoom.us/j/94072646664?from=addon) to discuss pilot proposal ideas and the feasibility of leveraging the EHAS cohort in their project. Key gaps that pilot studies may propose to address include:

* **Individual Adaptive Behaviors:** Identify novel targets and develop longitudinal measurement and analysis techniques to improve transitions in care to prevent decline and restore independence of older adults.
* **Care Partner Adaptations:** Develop, evaluate, and scale models of care to integrate caregivers with the entire care team to prevent care transitions and enhance care coordination.
* **Adaptation of Community Supports:** Identify community-engaged approaches for interventions in the home and community to support aging in place for older adults.
* **Community and Health Systems Adaptation:** Tailor age friendly care models across health and community care systems to be more adaptive and meet the needs of diverse older adults.

Submissions are due to Glenwood Thomas (GLTHOM2@emory.edu) by **Friday, August 1, 2025,** and should include the following:

* + Biosketch of the Project Lead using the most recent NIH template (*must be an Emory faculty member at any rank with priority to early-stage investigators*)
	+ 1-page project description including the Project Title, Project Lead, Senior/Key Personnel, and a structured abstract of the project (background, aims, methods, and fit with the Emory OAIC theme).
	+ 1-page budget justification
* Submit your application as a single PDF file named “Lastname\_pilot.PDF” (for example, “Vaughan\_pilot.pdf”).

Applications will be reviewed, and Project Leaders of those projects selected for inclusion in the October submission notified by **August 13, 2025**. For inquiries regarding the upcoming Emory OAIC application, please contact Camille Vaughan, MD, MS at camille.vaughan@emory.edu.