



Advancing Workforce Analysis and Research for Dementia (AWARD) Network Request for Applications for Research Fellowship Awards

Up to \$5,000 total costs

Award period: June 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

Application opens: December 15, 2023

Application deadline: April 26, 2024, 11:59pm Pacific Time

Award announcements will be made by mid-May 2024

About the AWARD Network

The Advancing Workforce Analysis and Research for Dementia (AWARD) Network aims to advance research on the health care workforce that serves people living with dementia. Researchers from any discipline who are interested in building or advancing a research portfolio that considers the health care workforce are invited to participate in the AWARD Network. The AWARD Network emphasizes the *direct care workforce*, which is the largest occupation serving people living with dementia and includes personal care aides, home health aides, nursing assistants, and other occupations with similar roles and job titles. These workers are affected by a range of policies and programs that vary across states, payers, and health care organizations, including differing training requirements, state-level regulations regarding what services they are allowed to provide, and reimbursement strategies that may affect demand for and wages of direct care workers. We have little evidence to guide evaluation and refinement of policies even as the importance of ensuring an adequately sized and well-prepared direct care workforce is growing. There also is an urgent need to identify effective approaches to support direct care workers in their interface with an increasingly diverse population of people living with dementia and with other health care professionals.

The AWARD Network is based at the [Philip R Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies](#) (IHPS). The network is a collaborative venture of investigators from IHPS, [Healthforce Center at UCSF](#), [School of Nursing at UCSF](#), the [Center for Health Workforce Studies](#) at University of Washington, and [PHI](#). The Network is funded by the [National Institute on Aging](#).

Research Fellowship Program Overview & Purpose

The AWARD Research Fellowship Program is intended to enable emerging researchers to initiate or work on a collaborative research project with an experienced research mentor. The early-stage researcher will receive \$2,500 to \$5,000 to cover a range of costs, such as travel to visit their mentor's institution or to a conference; primary data collection expenses; translation, transcription and/or editing services; publication fees; and/or other approved expenses. The applicants' research interests can be national, regional, or local in scope; may entail qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods; and can focus on any topic related to the workforce and care for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, although priority will be given to projects that focus on the direct care workforce.

Applications will be rated on the relevance of the applicant's research interests, demonstration of mentor's commitment, clarity of fellowship goals, evidence of future promise as an independent researcher, and diversity considerations. We encourage applicants from [populations under-represented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research enterprise](#).

All fellowship award recipients will be expected to give a presentation related to their fellowship activities on an AWARD Network webinar or at an annual AWARD Network meeting.

Eligibility

To be eligible, fellowship applicants must:

- Be an AWARD Network member (you can join the network [here](#)).
- Be enrolled as a graduate student or in a postdoctoral, faculty, residency, or equivalent position (within three years of finishing a terminal graduate degree) at a U.S.-based college, university, medical or nursing school, or other fiscally responsible organization.

As noted above, applicants from [populations under-represented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research enterprise](#) are strongly encouraged to apply. We encourage applications from graduate students as well as postdoctoral researchers and early-career faculty and other researchers who are developing or expanding a portfolio of research focused on the workforce that provides care to people living with dementia.

Selection Criteria

We anticipate supporting 3-6 fellowships for a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$5,000 per award. The total number and amount of fellowship awards will be based on the number of meritorious applications and request of each applicant.

A review committee will review and score each fellowship proposal on a 5-point scale based on:

- Relevance of the applicant's research interests to the workforce that cares for people living with dementia
- Relevance of the proposed fellowship activities to furthering the applicant's research interests
- Demonstration of mentor's commitment to the research fellowship
- Expertise of the applicant relative to career stage
- Evidence of future promise as an independent researcher

After scoring is complete, additional consideration and prioritization will be provided to applicants from under-represented populations (as indicated above) and those who have regularly attended network activities.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF via email to AWARDNetwork@ucsf.edu.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 26, 2024, 11:59pm Pacific Time.

Applications must not exceed 2 single-spaced pages total, with one-inch margins, and be prepared in Arial Font 11 point or Times New Roman 12 point. The cover page, bibliography/references, biosketches, and budget do not count toward the page limit.

Cover page (does not count toward the page limit):

- Fellowship title
- Applicant's name and title
- Applicant's email address and telephone number
- Organization/institution name, address, city, state
- Name, title, and institution of proposed research mentor
- Indication of whether the application involves human subjects research and if so, the institution's Federal-Wide Assurance Number
- Budget

Proposal body (2 pages maximum):

- Research interests: Describe the importance of the problem to be explored and its relevance to the workforce that serves people living with dementia. Include information about how this area of research relates to improving health equity or addressing health and health care inequities, if applicable.
- Fellowship activities: Describe the activities that will be undertaken during the fellowship period to inform and advance the applicants' research interests. Describe the proposed products of the fellowship (such as, but not limited to, policy briefs, conference oral or poster presentations, peer review manuscripts, future grant applications, thesis/dissertation, blog articles, etc.).
- Research team: Describe the applicant's background and how the applicant's training, prior research, and/or interests have prepared the applicant to successfully complete the proposed fellowship. Also describe the fit of this proposal with the proposed mentor's background, training, prior research, and/or mentorship experience.
- Future aims: Describe how this work will contribute to the applicant's research development and career advancement.

Budget (does not count toward the page limit):

- Funds can be used to support travel to visit the mentor's institution or to a conference with dedicated meeting time between the awardee and mentor; primary data collection expenses; translation, transcription and/or editing services; publication fees; and/or for other reasons. Please provide a general budget along with a budget justification that explains the listed expenses.
- Awards are to be used within an 11-month period and are expected to range between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Additional documents (do not count toward the page limit):

- Bibliography and references
- [NIH-style biosketches](#) for the applicant and research mentor. Please ensure that each biosketch includes position/title, education/training, personal statement, positions/honors, and contributions to science.

NOTE: Protection of Human Subjects Documentation – documentation of IRB approval will be required before funds are dispersed for any projects involving human subjects (but is not required at the proposal stage).

Questions?

For eligibility, program, and budget-related questions, please contact AWARDNetwork@ucsf.edu.

For general information on the AWARD Network, please visit <https://awardnetwork.ucsf.edu/>