



CHEARR PILOT PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Announcement Date: September 22, 2025

Application Due Date: December 15, 2025, at 11:59pm ET

Introduction and Background:

The [Collaborative Hub for Emerging Adult Recovery Research \(CHEARR\)](#) takes a community-engaged approach to advancing the field of recovery support services for emerging adults who have opioid use disorder. CHEARR focuses broadly on **recovery support services that can be delivered within outpatient substance use treatment settings** (e.g., peer recovery supports within substance use treatment clinics, phone or text-based interventions delivered in outpatient treatment centers that aim to reduce treatment dropout and promote recovery) and specifically on **people ages 16-25** who currently take or have previously taken **medications for opioid use disorder (MOUDs)**.

With the aim of accelerating research related to this topic, we are providing funding for pilot projects that will contribute to the field of recovery science for emerging adults. Pilot studies funded by CHEARR may augment existing knowledge, tools, and strategies generated from previous studies or explore innovative research ideas that will support future studies. Competitive proposals will describe pilot studies that will explore novel ideas and collect preliminary data critical for receiving future NIH research funding. Although we will consider funding pilot studies broadly related to recovery support services for emerging adults, **we will prioritize studies that specifically focus on research that has implications for recovery support services embedded within outpatient treatment programs that offer MOUDs**. Examples include collecting pilot data to support development or evaluation of novel recovery support services for emerging adults who take MOUDs, identifying specific needs of emerging adults with opioid use disorder (OUD) that could be addressed by new or enhanced recovery support services, and developing and/or evaluating adaptations of existing models of recovery support services to meet the needs of emerging adults with OUD. **We will only consider pilot studies focused on both (a) recovery support services and (b) emerging adults.**

Allowable Use of Funds:

Funding is available for projects of varying size: \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000. The number of projects funded will depend on the number and size of applications received. We are expecting to disburse a total of \$30,000, which could fund either one larger project or 2-3 smaller projects. Projects may be funded at a lower amount than requested depending on review of the budget justification and availability of funds.

Funding will be provided for a 1-year project. A no cost extension cannot be guaranteed due to the projected end date of the parent project. This funding opportunity can support a full array of resources, including Principal Investigator and staff salary and fringe support, electronic devices, supplies, research participant payments, software, travel/conference registration, expert consultation, publication fees, and other costs. **Indirect costs are not allowed.**

Requirements:

- Open to investigators from any U.S. institution that is eligible to receive NIH funding. Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career investigators are welcome to apply.
- Researchers are expected to partner with community members who have lived experience in recovery and/or working with young adults in recovery. (If you need assistance with this, please contact us at chearr@uchc.edu)

Researchers with lived experience in recovery (personal or familial) are encouraged to apply.

Special Considerations:

The CHEARR investigator team, in partnership with our two Community Boards, is co-developing a measure of recovery capital specifically for emerging adults. This measure is still in development but will be available to investigators by the time of funding. **If feasible**, projects should plan to incorporate the administration of this measure of recovery capital to any emerging adults enrolled in their pilot study. Data collected using this measure will be compiled across CHEARR-funded pilots to allow testing of initial reliability and validity of the measure. We understand that some study designs will not be a good fit for inclusion of this measure.

CHEARR values research that is community-engaged and centers research on the voices of people impacted by opioid use disorder. We encourage applicants to propose methods that are community-engaged and/or include team members with lived experience relevant to the aims of the project.

CHEARR has assembled two Community Boards that work closely with CHEARR investigators on all aspects of our projects. Our Young Adult Community Board is composed of people ages 18 to 28 who have lived experience taking medications for opioid use disorder. Our Peer Recovery Support Specialist Community Board is composed of certified peer recovery support specialists with expertise related to supporting emerging adults who take MOUD. Both Community Boards will collaborate with the CHEARR investigators to select which pilot projects receive funding. In addition, once funded, pilot grantees will be invited to meet with the Community Boards to receive initial guidance and feedback on their project, and the Community Boards will be available to the grantees for consultation throughout the life of the project. At the conclusion of the project, grantees will be invited back to the Community Board meetings to discuss their findings and receive guidance about dissemination of results. Pilot awardees will be expected to be responsive to the guidance from these CHEARR partners.

Application Process:

Submit the following via e-mail to chearr@uchc.edu:

- Cover page that includes project title and the name, title, affiliation/organization, and email of the PI and any Co-Investigators
- An NIH-style specific aims page (1 page maximum; [tips for writing a good specific aims page](#))
- A 3-page research strategy describing the Significance and Approach of the proposed study
- Bibliography/works cited – can be in a separate document and are not included in the 3-page limit for the research strategy
- Biosketch, CV, or resume of Principal Investigator(s)

- Description of the project timeline and a plan for how the pilot will lead to an NIH proposal, including your plan for a post-pilot grant submission (assuming positive results) (1 page maximum)
- Budget and budget justification
- Summary of project written in layperson language (1-page maximum, bulleted language preferred) - this will be reviewed by CHEARR's Community Boards
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows applying as PI must include a letter of support from a mentor, which should include evidence that the applicant will receive the mentorship, environment, and support needed to complete the proposed project. Mentor letters are also encouraged for early career faculty applicants but not required.
- NIH grant formatting preferred: [requirements at a glance](#)
- If you require additional guidance for the above sections, please e-mail chearr@uchc.edu

Due date: 12/15/2025 at 11:59 pm ET

Review Process and Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed by both the CHEARR investigator team and the two Community Boards. Evaluation criteria will include:

- Significance, Investigator (including commitment to engaging impacted communities in the research process), Approach using the standard NIH scoring system
- Potential of the pilot to lead to additional NIH-funded research projects
- Potential to advance the field of recovery support services for emerging adults who take MOUD, particularly recovery support services embedded within clinical settings and the future impact of this project
- Direct relevance and high priority to emerging adults who take MOUD and/or people who deliver services to emerging adults who take MOUD
- Budgets will be reviewed to ensure that the project is feasible, and funds will be used appropriately

Funding Decisions:

- Decisions about funding are expected to be made by **3/1/2026**.
- Projects selected for funding will be required to submit a Data Management and Sharing Plan (DSMP). CHEARR is a HEAL-funded project and data must be shared according to the HEAL Initiative Public Access and Data Sharing Policy – see [HEAL Data Stewardship Group | HEAL Data Stewards \(healdatafair.org\)](#) for guidance. Note that the Data Management and Sharing Plan does NOT have to be submitted with the initial grant application. Following initial selection by CHEARR, the pilot and the DSMP will need to be approved by CHEARR's NIH program official; however, CHEARR staff will assist with this process.
- If your project is selected for funding, IRB approval must be received before funding can be dispersed. The UConn IRB must also do a facilitated review once IRB approval from your institution is received. CHEARR personnel will handle the UConn IRB review process.

Questions? Please reach out to chearr@uchc.edu

This pilot funding mechanism is administered by the Collaborative Hub for Emerging Adult Recovery Research (CHEARR), supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under award number R24DA057632. This funding is part of the NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative. You can learn more about CHEARR at www.chearr.org