

# Request for Applications

## Projects on The Plasticity of Well-being

### **Who are we?**

The Plasticity of Well-being Network, funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), is one of six networks that NIH supporting to advance the understanding of emotional well-being. In this capacity, the Plasticity of Well-being Network aims to refine and test key concepts that advance the study of emotional well-being as well as to develop innovative measures of the key pillars of well-being. (Grant: U24AT011289).

Emotional well-being is, at its core, living a good and meaningful life. One purpose of these networks is to better define emotional well-being and to connect the definition to established research. The goal of the network is to identify ways to measure people's emotional health and well-being in everyday life and understand how flexible those aspects of well-being could be with effective, culturally relevant interventions and training.

### **Plasticity of Well-being Pilot Awards**

The Plasticity of Well-being network invites applications for Pilot Awards for projects that explore emotional well-being measurement and assessment. Priority will be given to applications that supplement, support, or expand on existing Plasticity of Well-being network research efforts by faculty collaborators from the Center for Healthy Minds, the University of Wisconsin Madison, Northwestern University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). See the following links for information about these various efforts:

<https://centerhealthyminds.org/science/studies/developing-a-program-to-learn-and-measure-well-being-at-scale>

<https://centerhealthyminds.org/science/studies/evaluating-the-healthy-minds-program-application-in-a-fully-remote-randomized-controlled-trial>

<https://www.media.mit.edu/projects/improving-well-being-prediction-performance-using-temporal-machine-learning-models/overview/>

<https://www.media.mit.edu/projects/improving-well-being-for-office-workers/overview/>

<http://ontherisestudy.org/>

As such Pilot Awards may be awarded to novel emotional well-being measurement in a broad range of fields, including psychology, neuroscience, microbiology, community-based research, electrical and computer engineering, population health and biology, and the humanities.

**Network PI:** Richard J. Davidson

### **RFA Guidelines and Terms of the Award**

Total funding available: \$150,000

Maximum funding amount per applicant: \$100,000 (we encourage proposals at or below \$75,000 so we can fund more than one)

Application Due: July 15, 2021 by 11:59 PM (CT)

Announcement of Recipients: August 10, 2021

Projected Start Date (estimated): September 1, 2021

\*The Plasticity of Well-being pilot award funding mechanism offered through NCCIH grant # U24AT011289 does not fund indirect costs. All funds must go directly towards the research project.

### **Eligibility**

1. PI must be faculty at a U.S. institution that can receive federal research grants. Investigators are encouraged to contact the Plasticity of Well-being Network to determine the appropriateness of their project.

### **Amount and Period of Support**

1. Funding is available in the amount of up to \$100,000 total. No indirect costs are allowed.
2. Funds can be used for one year.
3. Funds can be used for:
  - a. Regular faculty salaries
  - b. Salary and fringe benefits staff members (including post-doctoral fellows, graduate students not supported by the graduate college/school)
  - c. Research supplies
  - d. Dataset fees
  - e. Contracts for research-related service (e.g., recruitment services, survey administration)
  - f. Small equipment costs
  - g. Publication costs
4. Funds cannot be used for:
  - a. Indirect/F&A costs
  - b. Travel
  - c. Large equipment purchases
  - d. Secretarial/administrative personnel
  - e. Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
  - f. Per diem charges for hospital beds
  - g. Non-medical services to patients
  - h. Construction or building maintenance
  - i. Major alterations
  - j. Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
  - k. Office and laboratory furniture
  - l. Office equipment
  - m. Rental of office or laboratory space

Willful misrepresentation of the budget, misuse of funds, or not notifying the Plasticity of Well-being Network investigators of new extramural funding will result in loss of current and/or future eligibility.

### **Application Submission Process**

Interested faculty should submit the documents below in a single PDF file. Applications should be single-spaced, with at least 0.5-inch margins, and should use 11- or 12-point Arial or Times fonts. Applications cannot exceed three pages total.

1. PI information (name, email address, department, and university affiliation)
2. A list of anticipated co-Investigators
3. Project Title
4. 200 word lay abstract summarizing the proposal, what will be accomplished with the pilot funds and why is it relevant to the Plasticity of Well-being Network.
5. Specific aims
6. Research Strategy (this should include background, significance, innovation, overall approach, and a summary statement).
7. Statement outlining how the proposal furthers the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusivity in research on and understanding of emotional well-being
8. Budget and budget justification
9. PI's NIH biographical sketch (5-page limit)

**Please submit research proposals by July 15, 2021 via email to Jane Sachs at [jfsachs@wisc.edu](mailto:jfsachs@wisc.edu) Subject line should read: "Plasticity of Well-being – 2021 Pilot Proposal Submission – [PI Last Name]"**

### **Application Evaluation Process**

1. Each application will be assessed by a panel of faculty affiliates of this U24.
2. Evaluation Process:
  - a. Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed using the following criteria: (1) relevance to Plasticity of Well-being research; (2) the potential of the proposed pilot work to argument existing Plasticity of Well-being measures and assessments; and (3) potential to meaningfully incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusivity the understanding of emotional well-being . The highest priority will be given to those requests that are deemed most promising to receive future extramural funding.
  - b. Funding decisions will be made by the PIs based on combined reviewer assessments and programmatic considerations, and in consultation with the Plasticity of Well-being NIH program officer.
  - c. Evaluation is expected to be completed by August 10, 2021.
3. If applicable, applications with fundable scores will be required to demonstrate human subjects research compliance to NIH standards prior to receiving funding.

### **Expectations of Plasticity of Well-being Pilot Recipients**

1. PI agrees to share data with researchers in Plasticity of Well-being network and make data available to other researchers.
2. A one-page progress report must be submitted at 6 and 12 months past the funding date.
3. The PI will join Plasticity of Well-being Network Meetings Quarterly to present progress and findings.

For questions, please email the Plasticity of Well-being Network at [jfsachs@wisc.edu](mailto:jfsachs@wisc.edu)