



# NEW YORK RDRC RESEARCH GRANTS

2024-2025 Program Year

## About the Grants

The role of Retirement and Disability Research Centers is to build and strengthen the Social Security Administration's (SSA) capacity to undertake a broad range of research, evaluation, and policy analysis for the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), Disability Insurance (DI), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Because specific research needs evolve over time, SSA provides a list of focal areas of research each year.

Two topics are relevant to all the focal areas and should be considered when developing all research proposals:

**(1) Racial equity and support for communities facing barriers.** SSA encourages all researchers to consider equity—including the structural barriers that may contribute to disparate outcomes among people who have been historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by persistent poverty—as they develop their proposals.

**(2) The COVID-19 pandemic and how it impacts SSA programs and the populations SSA serves.** In particular, we are interested in studies that consider how Long COVID may affect health, employment, and participation in Social Security programs.

## FY25 Focal Areas

**Focal Area 1:** Understanding Service Needs and Improving Service Delivery

**Focal Area 2:** Studying Causes and Inequities of Overpayment and Underpayment

**Focal Area 3:** Addressing Barriers to Disability and SSI Programs Participation and Processes

**Focal Area 4:** Understanding and Improving Communication

**Focal Area 5:** Identifying Disparities by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex

**Focal Area 6:** Examining Economic Security of Program Applicants and Beneficiaries

**Focal Area 7:** Addressing Employment Barriers for People with Disabilities

We strongly encourage research proposals that draw from a variety of academic disciplines (including, but not limited to sociology, history, demography, public health, public policy and administration, economics, and psychology); utilize qualitative, quantitative, and/or mixed-methods approaches, including community-engaged research; and draw from or develop new data sources.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive. We welcome proposals on topics that may fall outside these areas provided they make a strong case for why they are significant areas of research.

[SSA 2025 Focal Area Memo](#)



## About the NY-RDRC

The [New York Retirement and Disability Research Center \(NY-RDRC\)](#) brings together the [City University of New York \(CUNY\) Institute for Demographic Research \(CIDR\)](#), the [Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging](#), and [Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis \(SCEPA\)](#) at The New School, to illuminate the multifaceted challenges facing older adults and people with disabilities, caused by the political economy, geographical divides, the changing workplace, and climate instability.

Disparities in health, wealth, income, and social class are on the rise and accumulate over the life course. Cumulative advantages and disadvantages shape work quality, retirement income security, health, and longevity in older ages. The NYRDRC seeks to help social insurance programs adapt to and ultimately reduce and eliminate large and growing disparities by better understanding the role of the larger political economy; the geographical divides between urban, suburban, and rural places of aging; the workplace; the pressures of severe heat, cold, and storms brought on by climate instability; and employers' needs and strategies.

## Terms

### Eligibility

Principal investigators must hold a PhD in a relevant field and have an appointment at an institution within the greater New York City metropolitan area or at any Historically Black College and University (HBCU) or Institution Serving Students of Color (ISSCs) formerly known as Minority Serving Institutions. Individuals not associated with an institution (domestic or foreign) and foreign entities are not eligible for awards. Junior faculty, faculty at Institutions Serving Students of Color, and under-represented minority faculty at eligible institutions are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Project Period

Research support is available for up to 12 months from the award date beginning around September 30, 2024.

### Funding

Grants will be awarded at funding levels ranging from **\$50,000 to \$100,000**. Funding amounts include your institution's federally negotiated indirect cost rate. In the budget justification, applicants should describe in detail what will be paid for with awarded funds and why they chose the funding level. The NY-RDRC may request revisions to submitted budgets during the selection process. Projects requiring extensive data collection and/or community engagement with populations of specific interest to the NY-RDRC <sup>1</sup>may submit budgets above the cap, but sufficient justification is required and will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. Proposals including original data collection should be mindful of the project timeline and include details of their data

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<sup>1</sup> The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. It includes persons who are Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.



collection plan in the budget justification. The NY-RDRC encourages utilization of grant awards to supplement existing funding.

## Requirements and Expectations

Grant recipients will be required to:

- Submit quarterly progress reports of work accomplished during the preceding three months on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.
- Submit a final working paper at the end of the month following the contract period.
- Attend the annual RDRC meeting in Washington DC if selected to present results.

Grant recipients are expected to:

- Submit the findings for presentations and publish papers based on the results of the project.
- Engage with the NY-RDRC research community by attending events and seminars.

## Application Instructions

Proposals should be submitted electronically via the [webform](#) on the [NY-RDRC website](#) by **May 10, 2024**.

Applicants submitting a research project should provide the following materials as separate documents:

1. Complete the webform fields requesting:
  - a. Lead Investigator(s) name and email address.
  - b. Lead Investigator's institution name (please indicate if HBCU or ISSC)
  - c. Names and affiliations of all other senior personnel
  - d. Project Title
  - e. Plain language abstract (200 words or less)
  - f. Budget Period
2. Upload a project description (5 pages maximum plus 1 page of references in addition, **double-spaced**, 12 pt font, Microsoft Word)
  - a. Research questions and significance.
  - b. Methodology
  - c. Data Sources
  - d. Statement of complementarity or overlap with existing or on-going research.
  - e. Project Timeline, addressing how the project will be completed within the timeline.
  - f. References
3. Upload a completed Budget Detail using the RDRC Excel Template
4. Upload a completed Budget Justification (Microsoft Word) for each line of funds requested.
5. Upload CVs for all key personnel (one PDF file)



## Selection Criteria

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel comprised of representatives from the NY-RDRC and separately, the SSA.

*All proposals are first evaluated for their relevance to the NY-RDRC [mission](#).*

In addition to aligning with the NY-RDRC's mission and vision, proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria below which come directly from the SSA and are equally weighted to align with their methodology.

1. Scientific Significance
2. Practicality/Policy Relevance
3. Approach/Methodology
4. Mixed Methods
5. Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)<sup>2</sup>
6. Timeliness
7. Investigator(s) Research Qualifications
8. Investigator(s) Community Connections
9. Investigator(s) Institutions – HBCU and ISSC included in budget.
10. Data Quality
11. Data Availability

Additional detail regarding the scoring criteria above is available at [Year 2 Scoring Criteria](#). Please note that the SSA criteria this year emphasize both mixed methods and CBPR. If you are considering proposal submission, but have questions regarding the inclusion of those methods, please email as we may be able to help you by facilitating your access to a Community Advisory Board, a workshop for researchers on incorporating mixed methods into quantitative studies, or other specific strategies.

## Contact

Questions about submission should be directed to:

Lawrence MacLean | [CIDR.Admin@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:CIDR.Admin@baruch.cuny.edu)

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<sup>2</sup> Community-engaged research involves working collaboratively with groups of people affiliated by race/ethnicity, geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being.



## Timeline

Proposal Deadline	May 10, 2024
Revisions requested by NY-RDRC reviewers (if applicable)	May 22, 2024
Final Proposal with revisions due	May 31, 2024
Notification of Award	Late Summer 2024
Performance period begins	Fall 2024
Performance period ends	Fall 2025