

COBRE in Neurodevelopment and its Disorders (CNDD)

Request for Pilot Project Proposals

The CNDD invites letters of intent for its Pilot Projects Program (PPP). Up to 2 pilot grants will be awarded. The PPP provides funding to MUSC researchers to perform basic, translational, or clinical research studies related to brain and nervous system development or to understanding the mechanisms underlying, or treatments for, neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, seizure disorder, or intellectual disabilities. The objective of the CNDD pilot projects program is to attract new and established investigators into neurodevelopment-related research and to increase their potential for future federal research support.

Two types of pilot awards are available:

- 1. Early-Career Pilot Award:** Discovery grant for early-career MUSC faculty (within 6 years of MUSC appointment) with no prior NIH R01-level grant funding as an independent PI (or MPI). Recipients of K99/R00 or K-type mentored faculty awards are eligible. In addition, senior postdoctoral scholars or research-track faculty who are in the process of promotion to tenure-track faculty at MUSC are also eligible, but faculty appointments must be completed prior to the initiation of the pilot project.
- 2. New Direction Pilot Award:** High-impact/high-risk project in neurodevelopment and its disorders research and/or a significant departure from PI's historical research program. Open to MUSC faculty at any rank or funding status.

Funding: Applicants may select either one-year support for up to \$75,000 or two-year support for \$37,500/year. Funds may be used at the discretion of the faculty member to achieve the goals of the pilot project proposal, including the option for PI salary support up to 10%.

Eligibility: All MUSC faculty are eligible, except current and past CNDD Research Project Leaders

Letter of Intent deadline: March 15, 2026

Full application deadline: June 15, 2026

Anticipated start date: September 1, 2026

Submission Guidelines:

- Applicant will submit (1) a one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) outlining the proposed CNDD pilot project and indicating if the application is for one year (up to \$75,000), or two years (\$37,500/year) and (2) current NIH Biosketch.
- The CNDD Executive Committee will review the LOIs and select applicants will be invited to submit: 1) 4-page detailed research proposal, 2) 1-page budget and justification, and 3) other support document.

LOI or inquiries should be sent to Dr. Antonieta Lavin, at lavina@musc.edu.