

The TIAA Institute & Boettner/Pension Research Council (PRC) Partnership

Call for Proposals on

Financial Wellness and Behavioral Finance

Proposals due June 1, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EST

The TIAA Institute is partnering with the Wharton School's Boettner Center/Pension Research Council at the University of Pennsylvania to solicit research proposals focused on **financial wellness and behavioral finance**. We have a strong interest in the following research topics but welcome proposals on other topics relevant to financial wellness or behavioral finance:

Financial Wellness:

- Financial well-being tools and metrics;
- Demographic dimensions of financial well-being;
- Financial wellness programming;
- The impact of various forms of debt on financial wellness;
- Role of financial literacy in improving financial wellness.

Behavioral Finance:

- Household insurance, savings, and retirement income decisions;
- Behavioral dimensions of retirement plan design;
- Impact of choice architecture on individual decision-making;
- Behavioral dimensions of annuity demand;
- Behavioral effects of social insurance programs on retirement income decisions

Eligibility: Any faculty member with an active appointment at a U.S. college or university is eligible to submit a proposal, as are researchers with appointments at public policy research organizations. Junior faculty members are encouraged to apply and special consideration will be given to their applications. **Final funding decisions will be contingent upon continued funding from TIAA.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Innovative research that informs product and service development in the retirement industry, as well as public policy;
- Strong thought leadership at dissemination events highlighting findings; and
- Encouraging new researchers to join the retirement research arena.

<p>The proposal deadline is June 1, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EST.</p>

How to Apply: Please submit the proposal materials detailed below as **a single integrated file in an e-mail attachment to:** Natalie Gerich Brabson, ngb1@wharton.upenn.edu
In the subject line, please write your last name and PRC/TIAA 2021-22 Proposal

Specific instructions for preparation of your proposal file are as follows:

Proposals should follow NIH-style formats which can be found at:

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)

- 1) Face Page, NIH-style: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp1.pdf>
- 2) Abstract (150 words)
- 3) Proposal Narrative (3-5 pages):
 - a) Title of proposal, name of investigator(s) along with full contact information
 - b) Research Question(s)
 - c) Project Motivation and Goals
 - d) Research Plan/Methodology/Analytical Framework
 - e) Data sources
 - f) Potential Conclusions and Policy Implications
- 4) **Targeted Timeline** for Deliverables
- 5) List of References cited in the Proposal
- 6) PI(s) Bio-sketch, NIH-style: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf>
- 7) Proposed Budget and Budget Justification, NIH-style: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf>

Note: This grant program will support only the direct costs of research and does not fund overhead or indirect costs. A maximum of \$85,000 will be allocated per selected proposal. Proposals must include a detailed and complete budget, separately itemizing costs for at least the following expenses:

- Personnel, including salary and benefits for the principal investigator and any co-investigators or research assistants (each separately itemized);
 - Travel for research-related purposes;
 - Equipment, materials, and other expenses, including itemized costs of (if any) and justification for, data, postage, printing, or other incidentals.
- 6) A 3 page resume/C.V. for primary investigator(s)

Deliverables:

- **All deliverables must be submitted in Word and tables/figures in Excel (e.g., no LaTeX or pdf files).**
- **Interim and Final Reports** on research and financials (see Targeted Timeline).
- **Working Paper:** The working paper from the project must be suitable for posting as a TIAA Institute *Research Dialogue* on the TIAA Institute's web site and on the Boettner Center/PRC's website.
- **Non-Technical Report and Executive Summary** outlining the main findings and implications of the research. The non-technical report should be 1,500-3,000 words in length, and the executive summary approximately 300 words. The report should be suitable for posting as a TIAA-CREF Institute *Trends and Issues* note.
- **Up to two oral presentations** of the research may result if requested by the TIAA Institute. Funding for any necessary travel will be provided by the TIAA Institute.

Targeted Timeline:

- Research to be conducted from July 1, 2021 through September 1, 2022.
- Interim Report: Interim progress and financial report to be submitted January 15, 2022.
- Final Report: Narrative and financial report to be submitted September 1, 2022.
- Possible Workshops/Convenings Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.

Recipients of a TIAA Institute/Boettner award will be expected to comply with the following conditions:

- 1) For this project, the PI(s) must obtain IRB approval if human subjects are being used, take human subject certification training (CITI) and get sponsor approvals if required by their institution (e.g., foreign clearance). If human subjects are used, a copy of the IRB letter of approval or exemption must be submitted to the PRC/Boettner Center prior to project funding release.
- 2) PI's are required to acknowledge grant support received for this research on all papers and presentations stemming from research conducted with this financing. Please use the statement below on all papers resulting from this funding:

“The project described received funding from the TIAA Institute and the Wharton School’s Pension Research Council/Boettner Center. The content is solely the responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily represent official views of the above-named institutions.”