

# OPTIMAL AGING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION GRANTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Optimal Aging Institute at Bowling Green State University announces the availability of small grants for innovative and/or collaborative research, educational programs, or community engagement projects focused on helping individuals age optimally. The Optimal Aging Institute (OAI) has four primary goals:

1. Become recognized as an educational institution that focuses on optimal aging (with a special emphasis on health, wellness, and preventative care).
2. Become the regional incubator for innovative programming, products, and applied research that will enhance the seven dimensions of wellness (physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, cultural, occupational) among middle-aged and older adults.
3. Provide learning opportunities and educational materials focusing on optimal aging for service providers, health systems, entrepreneurs, corporations, caregivers, and older adults.
4. Become a regional advocate for programs and services tailored for older adults by strategically mobilizing university and community resources.

Funding for approved projects is available through a monetary donation to BGSU from Medical Mutual of Ohio, the University's health insurance provider.

## **Eligibility**

The OAI will use eligibility criteria established by the Office of Sponsored Program and Research for their internal Building Strength Grant Program to determine eligibility for applying for an OAI Innovation and Collaboration Grant: "All Bargaining Unit Faculty Members are eligible to apply for internal or external grants." (<https://www.bgsu.edu/research-economic-development/office-of-sponsored-programs-and-research/internal-grant-programs.html> ). In addition, two other BGSU employee groups are also eligible: Faculty Administrators and Administrative Staff whose work is directly related to the goals of the OAI. Graduate students are not eligible to submit applications for these awards.

## **Project grants**

Project grants are available for amounts up to a maximum of \$5,000 from the Optimal Aging Institute. Awards will be made subject to availability of funds from the OAI.

The next round of proposals is in spring 2018; submission deadline is by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018.

The proposal review report will be sent to the proposal author(s) no later than three weeks after receiving the proposal.

The project period for expenditure of funds is one year from the date that notification of an award has been made. Extensions in time are permitted only for justifiable cause submitted in writing prior to the expiration date of the Optimal Aging Institute award (one year from the award date). All OAI grant recipients must provide documentation of the outcomes of their award within 12 months from the end of the approved grant period. Failure to do so could result in loss of future eligibility for OAI grant awards. Additionally, each award recipient must present their findings at the Annual Optimal Aging Community Fair.

## **Proposal details**

A written proposal for funding through the Optimal Aging Institute should contain:

- Cover page (see example)
- Project narrative not to exceed three pages single-spaced that contains
  - a) project abstract;

Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Entered by OAI staff)

Proposal No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Assigned by OAI staff)

- b) description and justification of the need for the project;
  - c) specific aims and objectives;
  - d) project or research activities related to the aims and objectives;
  - e) description of project assessment or evaluation procedures and measures;
  - f) a timeline for all project activities; and
  - g) final section indicating how the project will lead to sustained support for subsequent educational, community engagement, and/or research objectives, activities, and funding.
- Relevant literature or information citations may be attached as a separate page following the project narrative.
  - One-page budget request and a one-page budget justification. NOTE: Funding is not to be used for faculty/staff salaries, but can be used for hourly student support.
  - Letters of support (if applicable) from community partners.

Proposals should be submitted electronically as a pdf document via e-mail to: [oai@bgsu.edu](mailto:oai@bgsu.edu)

### **Proposal review process**

Proposals exceeding the narrative section page limit of three pages single-spaced will be returned to the submitter without review. Proposals not including all sections as listed above will also be returned without review. Proposals without signatures of the Principal Investigator and relevant department chairs and/or administrative staff unit directors will also be returned without review.

Proposals will be reviewed by a three-person subcommittee of the Optimal Aging Institute Internal Advisory Panel. The members of the Optimal Aging Institute Internal Advisory Panel are listed below in the Appendix. Reviewers will be selected by the OAI Director and CHHS Dean for their relevant knowledge and experience in the area or topic on which the proposal focuses.

A proposal review report will be prepared following the sub-committee's review to be shared with the Optimal Aging Institute Director, the Optimal Aging Institute Executive Director for Research, and the CHHS Dean, who will make the decision about funding the proposal and communicate any issues that must be resolved before the award decision. Proposal authors will be notified via e-mail about the results of the review and whether or not the proposal will be funded. Proposals requiring changes prior to the award decision must be amended and resubmitted IN FULL, WITH NEW COVER SHEET AND REQUIRED SIGNATURES before a final approval is made.

### **Proposal review criteria**

A proposal submitted to this program must meet the following criteria.

1. The proposal must be clear, concise, and understandable to a well-educated reviewer who may not be in the same or similar discipline as the author. The project abstract should be written for a community audience with moderate understanding of optimal aging and gerontological topics.
2. The proposal must demonstrate that the project is innovative, feasible (e.g., project aims and objectives can be achieved within the stated timeline) and will contribute to new knowledge.
3. A proposal must demonstrate how it addresses one or more of the four goals of the Optimal Aging Institute.

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4. Preference will be given to first time applicants and to proposals that involve investigators from different disciplines; or that involve collaboration among different university units (e.g., two academic programs); or an academic program and a university unit (e.g., Exercise Science and Recreation and Wellness; Food and Nutrition and Dining Services); or an academic program and a community agency/organization (e.g., the Gerontology Program and the Wood County Committee on Aging). Agreements with community agencies, if involved, must be in place or pending.
5. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate financial contributions from other sources, such as department funds, college funds, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, and the Division of Research and Economic Development, or a community partner agency. Funds may not be used to supplement existing or pending external grant awards.
6. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a high likelihood of the project or research being sustained by other sources of funding support subsequent to completion of the OAI funding.
7. Preference will be given to new projects. Continuation projects will be considered for a second year of funding if and only if they demonstrate substantial achievement of goals and objectives in the first year and high likelihood of external support for subsequent project years. The OAI believes that a maximum of two years of support is sufficient time to develop leads and competitive proposals for external funding or build a program into the unit's operations and budget.
8. Each proposal for Optimal Aging Innovation and Collaboration funding that involves research projects with human subjects must have Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (prior to funds being awarded). Additionally, any project that involves the use of animals must receive relevant approval through the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Executive Director of Research or the Director of the Optimal Aging Institute to discuss their project(s). For further information or questions, please contact:

**Nancy Orel, Ph.D.**

Executive Director of Research of the Optimal Aging Institute  
College of Health and Human Services 103  
[norel@bgsu.edu](mailto:norel@bgsu.edu)

**OR**

**Paula Davis**

Director of the Optimal Aging Institute  
College of Health and Human Services 102  
419.372.8244 | [pmdavis@bgsu.edu](mailto:pmdavis@bgsu.edu)

Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Appendix A: Members of the Internal Advisory Panel of the Optimal Aging Institute, BGSU

Brent Archer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication  
Sciences and Disorders, H&HS  
419-372-7165 | [barcher@bgsu.edu](mailto:barcher@bgsu.edu)

Kelly Cusack  
Director, Office of Educational Outreach, Firelands  
College  
419-372-0632 | [kcusack@bgsu.edu](mailto:kcusack@bgsu.edu)

Lynn A. Darby, Ph.D.  
Professor, School of Human Movement and  
Leisure Studies, EDHD  
419-372-6903 | [ldarby@bgsu.edu](mailto:ldarby@bgsu.edu)

Lisa Gruenhagen, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Music Education  
College of Musical Arts  
419-372-2005 | [lgruenh@bgsu.edu](mailto:lgruenh@bgsu.edu)

Carrie Hamady, MS, RD, LD  
Instructor/Coordinator, Undergrad. Dietetics  
Program, Dept. of Public & Allied Health, HHS  
419-372-0290 | [carrieh@bgsu.edu](mailto:carrieh@bgsu.edu)

Steve Kampf, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President, Div. of Student Affairs  
Director, Recreation and Wellness  
419-372-7485 | [skampf@bgsu.edu](mailto:skampf@bgsu.edu)

Laura Landry-Meyer, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, School of Family and Consumer  
Sciences, EDHD  
419-372-7848 | [landrym@bgsu.edu](mailto:landrym@bgsu.edu)

Hee Soon Lee, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Social Work, Dept. of Human  
Services, H&HS  
419-372-9538 | [leeh@bgsu.edu](mailto:leeh@bgsu.edu)

Kate Magsamen-Conrad, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Dept. of Communication,  
School of Media and Communication, A&S  
419-372-9544 | [kmagsam@bgsu.edu](mailto:kmagsam@bgsu.edu)

Wendy Diane Manning, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of Sociology, A&S  
Director, Center for Family and Demographic  
Research; Co-Director, National Center for Family &  
Marriage Research  
419-372-2850 | [wmannin@bgsu.edu](mailto:wmannin@bgsu.edu)

Robyn Miller, Ed.S.  
Instructor, School of Human Movement, Sport &  
Leisure Studies, EDHD  
419-372-7234 | [robymgm@bgsu.edu](mailto:robymgm@bgsu.edu)

Amy Morgan, Ph.D.  
Professor / Associate Dean for Administration, EDHD  
419-372-3587 | [amorgan@bgsu.edu](mailto:amorgan@bgsu.edu)

Deborah O'Neil, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor & Director, Master of  
Organization Development Program, CBA  
419-372-5222 | [oneild@bgsu.edu](mailto:oneild@bgsu.edu)

V. Jane Rosser, Ph.D.  
Director of Center for Community & Civic  
Engagement  
419-372-9288 | [jrosser@bgsu.edu](mailto:jrosser@bgsu.edu)

Karyn Smith, MPH  
Health Educator, Wellness Connection  
Dept. of Recreation & Wellness, Student Affairs  
419-372-9309 | [karync@bgsu.edu](mailto:karync@bgsu.edu)

Jennifer Wagner, MPH, LNHA  
Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of Gerontology, H&HS  
419-372-2326 | [jawagne@bgsu.edu](mailto:jawagne@bgsu.edu)

Wendy K. Watson, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Coordinator of  
Gerontology Program  
419-372-1057 | [wwatson@bgsu.edu](mailto:wwatson@bgsu.edu)

Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Entered by OAI staff)

Proposal No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## OPTIMAL AGING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION GRANTS APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Project** (Please check all that apply)

\_\_\_ Campus optimal aging education project (must contain an evaluation component)

\_\_\_ Community optimal aging/engagement project (must contain an evaluation component)

\_\_\_ Research project

\_\_\_ Other (In the proposal narrative, please describe why none of the above categories apply)

**Project Support** (Please check all that apply and provide details in the proposal narrative)

\_\_\_ This project will provide data and/or findings that will be used in a proposal for external support.

\_\_\_ This project involves interdisciplinary collaboration.

\_\_\_ This project involves university department or unit and a community agency or organization.

**Funds Requested: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**From Optimal Aging Institute**

**Other Available Funds or \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In-Kind Contributions**

**Endorsements:**

<b>Principal Investigator</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Typed Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

<b>Co-Investigator</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Typed Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

<b>Dept Chair 1:</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Typed Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

<b>Dept Chair 2/ Agency Dir:</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Typed Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>