



RFP for PHASE I CONCEPT PROPOSAL for 2016 FUNDED RESEARCH

The American Seniors Housing Association is pleased to announce a competitive solicitation process to award funds for projects that enhance the knowledge and information available to the age-qualified, service-enriched housing (seniors housing) industry. Conceptual proposals for research programs should address the research goals of the association and should ultimately improve the quality of life of our customers and the success of the ASHA membership who serve them.

This RFP is a request for a preliminary concept for research and for you to define how you envision Arizona State University working as a research partner with ASHA.

SCHEDULE

The schedule for the Concept Proposal, invitation for submitting the Research Grant Proposal, and award of the grant(s) is shown in the table below.

SCHEDULE OF ASHA 2016 RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM		
Phase I Concept Proposal	September 1, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. EST	Request for proposal released by ASHA.
	October 15, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. EST	Concept proposals due.
Phase II Grant Proposal	November 1, 2015	Request for Grant Proposals released.
	December 1, 2015	Grant proposals due.
Grant Award	January 2016	Announce awards and sign agreements.
Grant Completion	January 2017	Final product due.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDED RESEARCH

To be considered eligible, the project must clearly and directly impact the knowledge and performance of the age-qualified, service-enriched housing industry represented by the members of ASHA. Eligible organizations are educational institutions with significant demonstration of relevant research programs.

Additional Requirements:

1. Proposed projects must benefit more than one individual, institution, or organization.
2. Grant funds may not be used for activities that are not defined in the proposal.
3. Funds will be awarded for no more than one calendar year. Projects must be scheduled to end no later than one year from the date the award (first payment) was made.
4. Funding requests must fall between \$25,000 and \$250,000 per project. More than one project may be funded.

RESEARCH PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

ASHA's competitive application process is divided into two phases:

Phase I, Request for Concept Proposals: In Phase I, applicants submit Concept Proposals for projects that enhance the quality of life of our customers and/or the success of the ASHA membership who serve them.

Applicants must use the ASHA Concept Proposal Form to submit the Concept Proposal for their proposed project.

Phase II, Request for Grant Proposals: Selected applicants will be invited to participate in Phase II, Request for Grant Proposals, and will be asked to submit a more detailed project proposal. Specific requirements and instructions will be included in the "Request for Grant Proposals" notification. ASHA will advise all applicants who provide a Concept Proposal whether or not they are invited to submit a Grant Proposal. You should not prepare a Grant Proposal unless invited in writing.

FUNDING AREAS AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

ASHA asked members, associations, and other stakeholders to provide their highest priority needs for 2016 funds.

Based on this feedback, ASHA has identified the following six areas as the 2016 ASHA Research Funding Priorities.

Projects that address one of these six priorities will receive a scoring preference (see Concept Proposal Score Sheet).

2016 FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH RELEVANT TO AGE-QUALIFIED, SERVICE-ENRICHED COMMUNITIES

1. Documentation of the benefits and limitations of living within a residential community that provides supportive services contrasted to the benefits and limitations of staying within your home and how these are affected by personality and lifestyle. This research may focus on specific or multiple measures. For example, the research may study the outcomes after falls when someone falls in their private home compared to someone who falls within an independent living and/or assisted living community.
2. Identification of parameters, implementation processes and efficiencies, and best practices that will improve capacity, operational efficiency, increase market share, profitability, and quality of life of customers.
3. Documentation of use of technology to improve the quality of life and quality of services in age-qualified, service-enriched communities.
4. Identification and documentation of efficacy, implementation and outcomes of programs to improve the quality of life of the frailest customers.
5. Research to identify and demonstrate effective methods of reducing and ultimately eliminating bullying and other forms of antagonistic behaviors.
6. Determining the optimum residential environment: size, ease of use, comfort, storage, lighting, wayfinding, etc., that increase livability and the sense of feeling at home, and are efficient and affordable.

Projects that do not address one of the above priorities are still eligible for funding, as long as they meet all other program requirements. Examples of other funding areas may include, but are not limited to: improve customer service; improve quality and increase productivity among employees; best practices for integrating effective use of technologies within the community environment; understanding the parent and adult child relationship; and, communication practices to communicate alternatives for living longer better, and that facilitate healthy discussions among families and professionals.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Industry Support: Documentation of how you will obtain support from the industry (if you will require participation from communities or companies, etc., to be impacted by the project) must be included, if invited to submit a Grant Proposal.

Duration of Projects: Research projects are to be completed within 12 months of initiation. ASHA funds are not intended to support projects indefinitely. Exceptions to this time frame will be considered, however, a schedule of deliverables within the 12 month time frame will be required.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs, including administrative overhead, must be defined in your grant request. Programs with lower costs may be more competitive.

Allowable Costs: To be eligible for grant funding, costs must be specific to the proposed project, must be identified and supported. Costs for entertainment, personal support, proposal preparation, pre-agreement costs, alcoholic beverages, and other costs may not be allowed.

Grant Management: Award Recipients will sign a Grant Agreement with ASHA and must follow all applicable federal and state rules and regulations, including those for insurance coverage, procurement practices, and accounting procedures. In addition, recipients will: submit detailed monthly performance reports and at project completion; keep thorough records; and closely monitor the project against expected outcomes. Failure to properly manage a grant award may result in the obligation to repay grant funds and/or exclusion from future grant opportunities.

Disbursement of Grant Funds: Grant funds will be paid to recipients for approved expenditures on a scheduled basis, typically quarterly. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenditures may not be more frequently than monthly.