



Infrastructure for Collaborative Research Letter of Intent (LOI) Template

Please provide a response for the following areas of evaluation describing the project you are proposing to include in the ICR. Ensure that your response to each section does not exceed the stated word limit, and address each of the stated criteria, as these are used by reviewers when assessing proposals.

When completed, this document should be uploaded as a PDF attachment on the Request for Proposals portal in the indicated field on the online application. Any questions should be directed to ICR@mednet.ucla.edu

SCOPE OF WORK (Maximum 300 words)

Explain how your study is relevant to the physical health of autistic individuals. In addition, please comment on how you believe your study will benefit from being integrated with the ICR. This section will be reviewed for the following criteria:

- Focuses on a topic relevant to the physical health of autistic individuals.
- Research project clearly outlines how it will contribute to improving the health and well-being of autistic people as defined by the Autism [CARES Act](#)
- Reasonable justification that the project aligns with [AIR-P's guiding principles](#)

APPROACH (Maximum 500 words)

Briefly describe the methodology that will be used (quantitative, qualitative, descriptive, etc). This section will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Study design and methods are appropriate to the goals of the project
- Any potential harm to autistic participants is clearly outweighed by the benefits of the study
- Study should seek to incorporate as diverse a sample of autistic participants as possible given the research question

ACCESSIBILITY (Maximum 300 words)

Outline steps you have taken to ensure the accessibility of your study, including using plain language in study materials, community-approved terminology (ex: identity-first), and making your study accessible to autistic individuals of varying cognitive abilities. If there are any exclusions, please justify this decision. This section will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- When appropriate, significant efforts are made to ensure research study is accessible to autistic participants with varying cognitive/language abilities (i.e. no blanket ID exclusions without strong justification)
- Considers the variations of terminology used to describe neurodiverse populations and other communities or identity groups, and uses respectful language
- When relevant, specific effort made to ensure accessibility of study

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS (Maximum 300 words)

Does this study make use or plan to make use of community collaborators? If so – at what levels? Additionally, if you have examples of outreach materials you plan to use, please feel free to include them here. We

RECOMMEND that projects attempt to implement the following approaches:

- At least one autistic individual involved at the “consultation” level or higher (can be PI, research staff, academic collaborator, or “non-academic” partner with significant involvement)
- When appropriate, includes non-autistic stakeholder input from other relevant groups (e.g., caregivers, individuals with specific medical conditions)
- Research model (CBPR, PCOR, Consultation, etc; see details [here](#)) is outlined.
- All non-academic collaborators and consultants are compensated fairly (equivalent to neurotypical peers)

If you are not currently using these approaches in your project, or if you plan to implement one or more of these approaches in the future, please state this in your response.