



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What intervention targets are supported by EMBRACE?

EMBRACE supports four levels of intervention target (as shown in the socioecological model below): individuals with dementia, caregivers, living environment, and/or neighborhood/community settings.

EMBRACE does not support trials targeting service systems or policy. Please note that while assisted living facilities settings are considered an eligible home and community-based setting supported by EMBRACE trials, skilled nursing care facilities (nursing homes) are not.

Socioecological Model



2. What is a mechanism?

Mechanisms are processes (i.e., biological, behavioral, social, and/or environmental) through which an intervention influences a key outcome. Some example mechanisms you may consider include constructs representing self-regulation, stress resilience, or social/interpersonal processes that influence a desired behavior change. The mechanisms are also shown in the figure below,

categorized into the four target levels of intervention influence supported by EMBRACE.

Examples: Tailoring Mechanisms of Action



Neighborhood/community: safety; community-based agencies; transportation, religious outlets; access to shopping, care, and services; social capital



Living environment: type of housing; accessibility; safety/security; level of stimulation; adaptive equipment; home repairs; persons in living space



Caregivers: health, physical, emotional, cognitive; knowledge, skills, motivation; social supports; employment/financial status; location in life course; relationship/closeness; values, beliefs, style



Individual with dementia: neurobiological (cognitive status, executive function, disease stage); health (comorbidities, health status); behavioral/psychological (behavioral symptoms, affect/depression/anxiety); social (social comportment, interests, hobbies, occupations, socio-cultural background)

From: Gitlin LN, Hodgson N. Better Living with Dementia: Implications for Individuals, Families, Communities, and Societies. Elsevier Academic Press; 2018.

3. Will EMBRACE support evaluation using a physiological mechanism?

Yes, however, the mechanism needs to be aligned/directly linked to public health outcome measure.

4. Can we identify more than one mechanism?

Yes, you can specify more than one mechanism. All mechanisms need to be aligned/directly linked to specified outcome measures. Please consult with your statistician regarding how this may impact your power analysis.

5. Where can I find more information on mechanisms and behavior change?

There are valuable publications and resources on the EMBRACE website:

- z.umn.edu/EMBRACEwebinars
- z.umn.edu/EMBRACEresources

6. The aims page specifies a 1-page limit. Can I use references?

Feel free to use a second page for your references.

7. Should I expect to receive a confirmation of my LOI submission?

Yes, all applicants will receive an email confirmation upon submitting an LOI. If you do not, please contact EMBRACE@umn.edu.

8. Who can apply for EMBRACE funding?

Eligible PIs for Roybal clinical trials include junior, mid-career, and established investigators. See Section III for eligible applicants [HERE](#).

9. Does an EMBRACE award include both direct and indirect costs?

Yes, EMBRACE awards reflect *total* costs, inclusive of both direct and indirect costs.

Since EMBRACE is funded by NIH, we honor your use of any negotiated rates or the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC). We defer to you, as the applicant, to determine whether you or your organization wishes to waive, modify, or rely on your standard indirect cost rate. Additionally, if your application involves a subaward to another site, that site/sub may use whatever their federally negotiated indirect rate is.

10. Who is the sponsor organization?

The Establishing Mechanisms of Benefit to Reinforce the Alzheimer's Care Experience (EMBRACE) Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementia (AD/ADRD) Roybal Center Trial Research Grant Program is funded by the National Institutes of Health - National Institute on Aging. Awardees will be issued a subaward from the University of Minnesota.

11. How do I prepare for an EMBRACE consultation?

- Please send any questions in advance of your consultation, so that our leadership team can prepare for your consultation. Questions can be sent to EMBRACE@umn.edu.
- During the consultation, be prepared to give a brief overview of proposed trial.

12. Who should attend the EMBRACE LOI application consultation?

Anyone from your team is welcome! We *highly recommend* having your statistician attend the consultation as well.