

# *Centers of Innovation (COIN)*

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# Objectives

- Review the elements of the COIN application
- Discuss frequently asked questions
- Consider review criteria
- Answer questions

# COIN Objective

This initiative seeks to **build on the past successes** of HSR&D research centers while providing more effective mechanisms and incentives to reward **research** and **partnerships** to ensure that research has the greatest possible **impact** on **VHA policies** and **health care practices** and outcomes for **Veterans.**

# COIN Timeline

## Eligibility

- Determine eligibility for COIN or Multi-Institutional COIN
- Obtain initial budget information

## Review Process

- Peer review to assess scientific merit
- Investigators/Partners site visit to assess importance to VHA

## Budget

- COIN budgets variable (based on size and complexity)
- Fund minimum of 15 COINs

# Submission Timeline

Milestones	Deadlines
Intent to Submit	September 1, 2012
First day to submit to Grants.gov	October 8, 2012
Down to the Wire Submission	November 1, 2012
Last Possible Submission Date	November 5, 2012

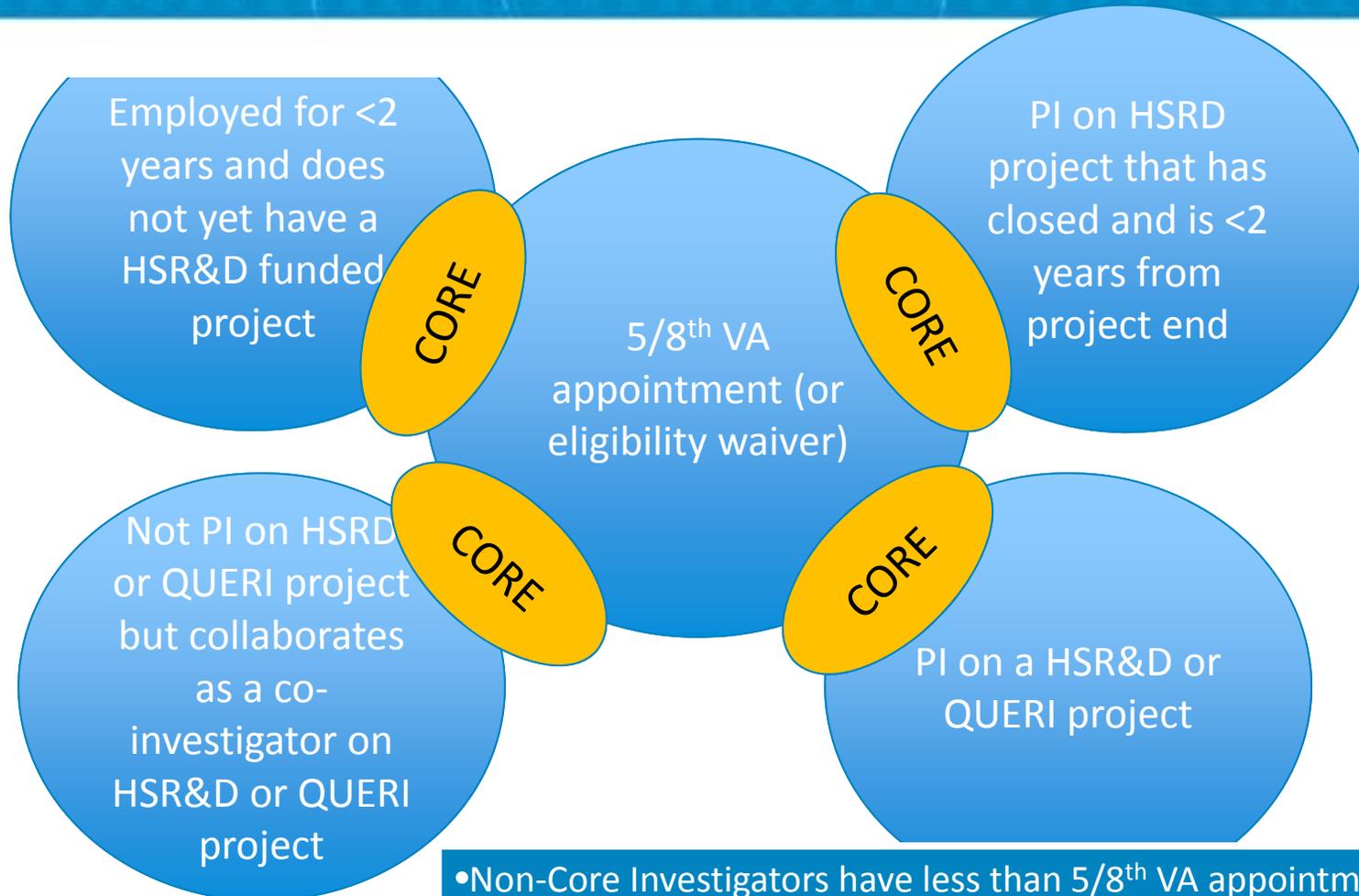
# What counts in the COIN?

Eligibility	Core Investigator	Infrastructure
Approval to Submit	Strategic Plan	Budget
Minimum of 5 unique HSR&D and QUERI PIs within single facility	All 5/8ths HSR&D and QUERI PIs within a single COIN	Research Activity Equivalents (RAEs)
Funded projects, i.e., IIR, SDP, SDR, NRI, CREATE (one CDA) active on the date of application submission	HSR&D and QUERI funded PIs, new and established PIs (2 yrs before or after funding), collaborators	Dollars sent to COIN to support all projects; amount based on an average of the previous 3 years

# Who counts for eligibility?

- Minimum of 5 unique PIs on HSR&D or QUERI projects at a single VA Medical Center
  - IIR, SDP, SDR, NRI, CREATE Projects
  - One of the qualifying PIs can be a CDA without a funded HSR&D or QUERI project
- Each funded PI is counted once even if that PI as multiple VA HSR&D projects

# Who Counts as a Core Investigator?



# Fixed and Variable Infrastructure

- Actual infrastructure budgets will depend on 2013/14 budgets, # of COINs and their size
- Target Budgets were provided to all REAPs and CoEs, calculated as:
  1. Estimate Total Center Research Activity Equivalent (RAEs) for Each Center
    - a. [3 year average total HSR&D project funding / \$186,000 (all HSR&D project funding/total number of projects)] +
    - b. [3 year average # of CDA's (one CDA=one RAE)] +
    - c. # of Research Career Scientists
  2. Target Budget Calculation
    - a. Variable component (proportional to total RAE) +
    - b. Fixed infrastructure component (approx \$385,000)

Single Center COIN - all receive the same infrastructure component  
Multicenter COIN – all receive 1.3 x single center amount

Centers were then ranked based on RAEs and each center was assigned to one of three budget categories: \$600k, \$800k, \$1.0m.

# Infrastructure for CREATEs

- **Will there be additional money for administering the CREATE ?**
  - There will not be additional support to cover the costs of coordinating between CREATE projects, ensuring communication between PIs and between researchers and partners, and convening regular (annual) meetings with investigators and partners. Only those CREATEs NOT located at a current Center (or future COIN) are eligible to receive a supplement of \$50,000 per year for the administration of the COIN.
- **Supplemental Travel funds for all CREATEs**
  - Travel of up to \$10,000 per year will be available to your CREATE for travel to support the overall CREATE goals and allow collaboration between partners/Pis.

# COIN Application Elements

- Strategic Plan covering:
  - Focused areas of research
  - Research outside the focused areas
  - Mentoring and career development
  - Cross-center collaboration
- Engagement with Partners in at least one focused area
  - Partnered research component with at least one of the projects providing Veteran or system impact early in the first two years of COIN funding (similar to CREATE)
- Specific goals and objectives tied to **current and planned** activities
- Service to partners

# Strategic Plan: Forward Looking

It will be important to show how the Center plans to develop new collaborations across medical centers and how the Center plans to sustain existing and new collaborations extending into the future.

# Focused Area of Research

- **At least one, but no more than three**, focused areas of research
- Presents a framework for systematically developing each area
  - Identifying critical gaps in the science
  - Anticipating future research priorities
  - Engaging partners *if appropriate*
- Specific goals and objectives tied to current and future activities
- Plans for coordinating relevant expertise across medical centers
- **At least one focused area** describes relevant health systems partnerships that have been integrated into the strategic plan.

# Research Outside Focused Areas

- Emerging research areas within a COIN
  - Investigators working in VA-relevant areas that are innovative
  - May not fit in one of COIN's focused areas of research
- Critical to describe how the COIN will support the collaborations of these investigators with
  - Other COIN and CREATE groups
  - Independent investigators at other COINs and non-affiliated VAMCs
- Emphasis on research that
  - Is innovative
  - Advances science and improves health care for Veterans
  - Influences policy and practice in VA and beyond
  - Involves active partnerships

# Mentoring/Career Development

- Integrated in the strategic plan, even if no CDA
- Plan should include a goal relevant to career development
  - Individual objectives related to specific activities to promote effective mentoring and professional development of junior investigators
  - Demonstrate how knowledge, skills, and techniques will be disseminated
- New incorporation of distance mentoring, off-site activities, cross-disciplinary interactions, engaging partners

# Cross-Medical Center Collaboration

- Commitment to collaborative work across institutions
  - Goes beyond the collaboration of a Multi-Institutional COIN
- Evidence of or plans for collaboration may include:
  - Involvement of another investigator in the development of the COIN strategic plan
  - Investment of COIN investigators in focused areas of research conducted at other facilities
  - Joint sponsorship of HSR&D initiatives including conferences, agenda setting meetings, and publication efforts

# Other Elements of COIN Application

- Service activities
- Implementation capacity
- Prior productivity and impact (FY09 – Summer 2012 review cycle)
- Center leadership including Steering Committee
- Center organization and management plan
- Investigators and staff
- Available infrastructure and institutional support

# Implementation Capacity

- A goal of the COIN program is to build capacity for implementation and implementation research beyond QUERI
- Attention to implementation should occur early in research
  - Increases likelihood of knowledge translation into policy or practice
- Current and planned implementation activities should be described in application
  - Collaborations with QUERIs, VERCs, implementation and improvement initiatives
  - Activities with other non-ORD research centers, e.g., GRECC, MIREC

# Prior Productivity and Impact

- This section can be used to highlight additional evidence of productivity and impact on HSR&D and VA. Appropriate measures include :
  - Total number of funded investigators
  - Levels of funding over the past three years from VA and non-VA sources
  - Publications, especially high-impact publications (high-circulation journals, widely-cited and influential papers)
- This section should cover only the preceding three years and should not repeat specific examples covered in other parts of the strategic plan.

# Multi-Institutional COIN

- Multi-Institutional COINs should include:
  - Demonstration of a specific value to collaborating between multiple investigators at the two medical centers;
  - Evidence of either: (a) unique expertise and responsibilities at each medical center that are required for the success of the COIN, or (b) fully integrated responsibilities that depend on investigators at both medical centers;
  - An organizational plan that identifies a single COIN Director and Co-Director, and clearly describes intra- and inter-institutional lines of authority;
  - Specific plans to address anticipated budgetary challenges associated with sharing COIN resources at two medical centers;
  - A minimum of 5 unique, HSRD/QUERI-funded investigators at each site.
- Multi-institutional COINs will get slightly more (but less than 2x) CORE component of infrastructure support than a single institution COIN
- Infrastructure will be revised should one institution fall below minimum

# COINs with an Affiliated Site

- A COIN may affiliate with an institution that does not meet minimum eligibility but which has investigators that are integral to its strategic plan.
- Only the institution that meets eligibility will be guaranteed core and variable COIN funding.
- Infrastructure support for COINs will be revisited annually based on available budget and needs; an affiliated site that is able to grow to meet COIN eligibility *may* be eligible for additional funds.

# Review Criteria

- Reviewers will judge likely contribution of the proposed COIN based on 5 characteristics:
  - Strategic plan for focused areas of research (including CREATE element)
  - Research contributions outside of focused areas
  - Mentoring and career development
  - Cross-center collaborations and capacity for service to partners
  - Research capacity, implementation capacity, infrastructure and leadership
- The strategic plan for focused areas of research will be most important but there is no explicit weighting system for the 5 elements
- Although the last element (capacity, infrastructure and leadership) is essential, the relative weighting of the other 4 characteristics will vary by COIN depending on size and composition
- Reviewers will evaluate both the unique strengths of each COIN and the relative strength of each COIN compared to the others

# Questions and Discussion