

Health Services Scientific Merit Winter 2020 Request for Applications

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October 2, 2019

1:00-2:00 pm ET





Poll Question

Have you ever applied or contributed to an application for HSR&D funding?

- a) Yes**
- b) No**



Poll Question

What is your role in VA?

- a) Investigator**
- b) Coordinator, Project Manager, Analyst**
- c) ACOS, AO, or other research leadership**
- d) Operations leadership/staff**
- e) Other**



HSR&D Research Priorities

Health Service Research Priorities

*ORD Clinical Priorities

Suicide Prevention*	Opioid/Pain*
Access to Care	Long-term Care/Aging
Mental Health/PTSD*	Health Care Informatics
Women's Health	Health Equity
Health Care Value	Quality/Safety
Primary Care Practice	Population Health/Whole Health
Disability/SCI/TBI*	Virtual Care/Telehealth

Cross-cutting HSR Methods

- Implementation Science/Provider Behavior
- Complexity Science/Health Systems Engineering
- Data/Measurement Science

Legislative Priorities

- MISSION Act
- Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act
- Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act

ORD-wide Research Priorities



Expand Veterans' access to high quality clinical trials



Increase substantial real-world impact of VA research



Put VA data to work for Veterans



HSR&D Request for Applications

1. **HSR&D Merit Review Award (Parent)**
 - Incorporates MISSION Act
2. **HSR&D Merit Review Award Pilot Project**
 - Budget cap \$200,000 and duration 18 months
3. **HSR&D Targeted Suicide Prevention**
 - Incorporates transitions from military
4. **HSR&D Innovation Planning Award**
 - Revised solicitation
5. **HSR&D Randomized Program Evaluation**
 - Planning phase Resubmissions only
6. **HSR&D Implementation Research Projects**
 - New solicitation
7. **HSR&D Career Development Award-**
 - Research Plan now has 14 page limit
8. **HSR&D HBCU Research Scientist Training Program Award (IK2)**
9. **HSR&D Nursing Research Initiative**
 - Only resubmissions, no new submissions

What is no longer offered?

1. MISSION Act Planning Award
2. HSR&D Targeted Solicitation for Service Directed Research on Veteran Suicide Prevention During the First Year Following Discharge from Military Status—consolidated into one SDR on suicide prevention



Eligibility

- MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree in a medical, biological, or behavioral science field
- VA paid appointment of at least 25 hours per week (5/8ths)
- All VA medical centers with an active research program are eligible.
- Each VA medical center must be registered as an applicant organization in Grants.gov and eRA Commons before any proposals can be submitted.

Waivers

Eligibility Waiver see: Program Guide 1200.15

Off Site Waiver see: Program Guide 1200.16

Waiver for Offsite Research, Waiver for Exceeding Duration or Budget Cap, and IPA Waiver
Deadline **November 15, 2019**

Copy of the waiver approval letter from HSR&D must be included in the “Letters of Support” section of application. Missing letters are considered fatal.



Notable Sections in RFA

Patient Experience and Veteran Engagement

HSRD position:

- Most of our research would benefit from ensuring we had considered the patients perspective – on clinical care, health outcomes, implementation, and research.
- Encourage efforts to obtain Veteran input into health outcomes, interventions, study recruitment, and design. Options for obtaining input include prior research, focus groups, Vet engagement panels.

Clinical Trial Recruitment

- A large proportion of HSRD trials fail to meet recruitment goals.
- Trials will need to more explicitly justify data used to estimate recruitment -- e.g., pilot data, prior studies, etc. -- and comment on mitigation strategies in recruitment lags.



Notable Sections in RFA

Implementation and Dissemination Plan

- Context: “The tree falling in the woods phenomenon” -- If an HSRD-derived intervention doesn’t get implemented, does it make any noise?
- Dissemination in manuscripts and to partners is insufficient.
- **Proposals will need to explicitly discuss what the next steps are after project is completed. What is the path to making a difference in VA care.**
- **Need to consider who “owns” the problem the study is attempting to solve; what are the potential barriers to implementation, and how to overcome them. Who will be the partner to implement the project?**
- **Studies of interventions should consider how they can collect information relevant to implementation during the efficacy/effectiveness study (e.g., use of hybrid designs).**
- **Need to compress cycle of understanding problem, testing interventions, scaling solutions.**



Parent Merit Review Award

Parent: \$1,200,000 (max) for 4 years

Changes:

- **Mission Act is an HSRD priority.**
- **MISSION Act full proposals can be submitted to Parent Award.**



Parent Merit Review Award: MISSION Act Sections Relevant to HSRD

MISSION Act Section	Summary
Section 104	Impact of standards of access and quality of care used to determine referral to community care on Veteran outcomes
Section 105	Access to walk-in care for Veterans in VA or community care
Section 109	Impact of programs to remediate medical service lines (e.g., specific provider or clinical programs such as temporary personnel assistance, mobile deployment teams, hiring/retention incentives, direct hiring authority, or provider training opportunities) on access to and quality of care based on standards set in Section 104
Section 131	Establishment of processes to ensure safe opioid prescribing practices by non-VA health care providers
Section 134	VA participation in national network of State-based prescription drug monitoring programs
Section 151	Long-term impact of expansions of VA's authority to provide telemedicine on access to care, quality, and outcomes for Veterans
Section 152	Development of innovative approaches to testing payment and service delivery models that lead to enhanced quality of care, patient satisfaction, and cost savings
Section 402	Pilot programs for medically underserved areas using mobile deployment teams
Section 403	Pilot program for graduate medical education/residencies



Pilot Project Award

PILOT CHANGES: \$200,000 (max) and up to 18 months

Pilot Goals and Next Steps should be very clear.

- Strengthen the evidence for larger studies.
- Preliminary data for full-scale proposals (e.g., effect size).
- Establish feasibility of objectives/methods (e.g., recruitment; implementation feasible within existing infrastructure).
- Explore novel approaches through a small scale study.
- Pilots *can* be used for an innovative study not designed to lead to IIR.

Methods should align with goals, be appropriate for pilot work

e.g., sample size/population will depend on whether goal is to establish effect size vs. feasibility.

Only one resubmission allowed.



Targeted Suicide Prevention

RFA: \$1,200,000 (max) for 4 years

Combines previous Suicide Prevention RFAs into one SDR:

- HX-19-004-HSR&D Targeted Solicitation for Health Services Research on Veteran Suicide Prevention
- HX-19-005 HSR&D Targeted Solicitation for Service Directed Research on Veteran Suicide Prevention During the First Year Following Discharge from Military Status

Focus on observational studies, effectiveness studies, implementation studies (including hybrid studies), or population-based and community-level studies that address the prevention of suicide or treatment of suicidality among Veterans.

Emphasis on Veteran groups that are at high risk for suicidality and other risky behaviors.

- Veterans in transition from military to Veteran status,
- Veterans who have already made a suicide attempt,
- Veterans experiencing financial difficulties,
- Veterans who are struggling with chronic pain,
- Veterans who are at risk for becoming homeless,
- Women Veterans, Older Veterans, Homeless Veterans, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans
- Veterans with access to lethal means (e.g. firearms, illicit drugs, engagement in related risky behaviors such as driving under the influence, alcohol or opioid abuse, etc.),
- Veterans at risk who are not receiving VHA care, and
- Veterans with a less than dishonorable discharge.



Innovation Planning Award Phased Award

Phase I: \$200,000 for up to 18 months

Start Date is October 1, 2020

Phase II applications due December 2021.

Phase II: \$500,000 (max)/year for up to 5 years. Applicants limited to Phase I awards.

RFAs will be released in FY 2021.

Phase I: Research Narrative 5 pages.

Research Priority Topics:

- Suicide Prevention
- Opioid Misuse/Pain Management
- Access to Quality Care
- Veteran Specific Military Exposures
- Long Term Care Services and Support
- Care Coordination
- Social Determinants of Health
- Quality Measurement
- Modernization: Business Transformation



Randomized Program Evaluation Phased Award

Purpose: To solicit innovative new research utilizing randomized program evaluations to study the impact of new policies and programs on patient care and Veteran experience. RPEs should execute an evaluation plan that provides a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the practice or policy on a relevant set of process, utilization, cost, and health outcomes, and for examining patient, provider, and facility level factors that may be associated with more or less effective implementation and program effectiveness.

Planning RPE Resubmissions Only:

- **\$50,000 (max) for 9 months**
- **Research Plan: 7 pages (max)**
- **Must have Planning RPE to submit full application within one year of receiving planning funds.**
- **Evaluation planning activities may include:**
 - literature reviews, specification of study design, survey development, programming and analyses planning, and randomization planning with partners, and application for required research approvals

RPE Applications: \$1,150,000 (max) for 4 years (Phasing out-Apply to IIR in 1 year)
Research Plan: 14 pages (max)



Implementation Research Projects

Objective. Supports the development and pilot testing of specific implementation strategies for a fully powered hybrid implementation research study (e.g., Type 2 or 3 hybrid effectiveness-implementation design).

Scope. Must have an effective practice to be implemented (demonstrated effectiveness in an RCT involving Veterans) and a proposed plan to pilot an implementation strategy or set of strategies in 2 or more sites.

Research Plan. 5 pages **No Resubmissions**

Funding. \$200,000 (max) for up to 18 months.

Funds may be used to support the implementation strategy but must not be used to deliver the actual clinical intervention.

Intent. Pilot test implementation strategies that help existing providers use the clinical intervention. Funds can be used to support implementation strategies that educate or coach staff in how to adapt and apply the clinical intervention and to consult with or mentor other VA employees or investigators in the implementation strategy development and testing. This increases the chance that the program or practice will be sustainable because existing providers (i.e., employees already at the site) use it.



Career Development Award Mentored Research

The narrative page limit has been reduced to 14 pages.

Letter of Intent – Deadline October 15, 2019

ITS required (ART)

<https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cdp/default.cfm>

- **5 years of Salary Support**
- **Supplement support funds \$40,000/year for Years 1-3 at COINs and \$50,000/year at facilities not affiliated with COINs**
- **Candidate's training, experience and research accomplishments**
- **Career Plan**
- **Mentoring Plan**



HBCU Research Scientist Training Program Award (IK2) Mentored Research

There are no changes to this mentoring award.

Letter of Intent – Deadline October 15, 2019

ITS required (ART)

<https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cdp/default.cfm>

- VA primary mentor and HBCU co-mentor required
- 5 years of Salary Support
- Supplement support funds \$65,000/year Years 1-3

- Candidate's training, experience and research accomplishments
- Career Plan
- Mentoring Plan



Nursing Research Initiative Mentored Research

This RFA is being phased out—only resubmissions will be accepted.

ITS required (ART)

NRI Merit Award--\$1,100,000 (max) for 4 years

Research Plan- 14 pages

NRI Pilot Project --\$100,000 (max) for 2 years

Research Plan- 9 pages

- **Candidate's training, experience and research accomplishments**
- **Career Plan**
- **Mentoring Plan**
- **Qualifications of Mentor and Investigator**



Calendar

Date

October 15, 2019

November 1, 2019

November 15, 2019

December 10, 2019

December 12, 2019

December 15, 2019

March 2020

Event

ITS Opens and CDA LOI deadline

ITS Closes

Grants.gov opens

Down to the Wire Submission

Last Submission Date Grants.gov

Verification Deadline

Scientific Merit Review



Coming Soon

HSR&D Cerner Electronic Health Record Transition RFA



Questions



Happy to answer any questions!

vhacoscirev@va.gov

HSR&D RFAs:

<http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm>

**Thank you for your
attendance. We
hope to review your
application soon!**

