Health Services Scientific Merit Summer 2020 Request for Applications

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March 30, 2020
1:00-2:00 pm ET

HSR&D
VA Health Services Research & Development Service

ChooseVA

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**

COVID-19

ORD COVID-19 SharePoint site:
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vacovhacomm/admin/projects/covid19

Please direct questions:
ORDCOVI19@va.gov

HSRD weekly summary on COVID-19
CIDER announcements to the field

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

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What is New?

- **ITS opening date change**
- **No Nursing Research Initiative RFA**
- **New RFAs:**
  - **Social Determinants of Health**
  - **COVID-19 Rapid Response Projects**
- **Randomized Program Evaluation**
  - **Resubmissions only**
- **Updates within RFA sections**

Update on Cerner

Cerner Millennium, Electronic Health Record system, and associated Cerner systems are expected to Go Live in the Pacific Northwest (VISN 20) in July 2020.

The Cerner Scheduling Solution is expected to go live starting April 2020 with Columbus, OH. Future deployment will continue by VISN across the country over the next 10 years.

In designing your studies please beware that the transition has potential implications for data availability. Consider ways to mitigate data disruption impact. Note: This section is not factored into scoring during scientific review.

If you have questions about potential impact of the Cerner implementation on your research plans, please email the ORD EHRM workgroup ResearchEHRM@va.gov.

Resource links, current updates, and FAQs can be found on the EHRM and Research page of the Research Resource Guide (RRG).

HSR&D Request for Applications

1. **HSR&D Merit Review Award (Parent)**
   - **Budget cap $1.2M and duration of 4 years**
2. **HSR&D Merit Review Award Pilot Project**
   - **Budget cap $200,000 and duration 18 months**
3. **HSR&D Targeted Suicide Prevention**
   - **Merit Incorporates transitions from military**
4. **HSR&D Social Determinants of Health-NEW**
   - **New RFA with Merit and Pilot options**
5. **HSR&D Randomized Program Evaluation**
   - **Resubmissions only**
6. **HSR&D Implementation Research Projects**
   - **Budget cap $200,000 and duration 18 months**
7. **HSR&D Career Development Award**
   - **Research Plan has 14 page limit**
8. **HSR&D HBCU Research Scientist Training Program Award (IK2)**
   - **Follows CDA-2 application format**
9. **COVID-19 Rapid Response Projects-NEW**
   - **Concept project with 9 month duration**

What is no longer offered?

HSR&D Nursing Research Initiative

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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 May 15, 2020

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.

Intent to Submit (ITS)

HSR&D requires Intent to Submit (ITS) notification through HSR&D's ART website.

http://art.puget-sound.med.va.gov/IntentSubmitIntro.cfm

The ITS window has been modified.

NEW ITS window: April 24, 2020 to May 8, 2020

Applications submitted to Grants.gov without a completed ITS will not be accepted or reviewed.

Mentored awards (CDA & HBCU) must have an <u>approved LOI</u> or an <u>LOI that is under review</u> to submit an ITS.

ITS are used to determine panels, so an abstract that describes the project will assist in the assignment. Please include all the sites and personnel in the ITS.

Please note: QUERI application ITS window is April 8 to May 8.

Abstract Format

Project Summary/Abstract is **REQUIRED** following format listed in the RFA.

Background:

Significance/Impact:

Innovation:

Specific Aims:

Methodology:

Implementation/Next Steps:

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, Veteran 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.

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

- **HSR&D has identified priority areas that should be considered in developing research proposals. For details on updated HSR&D research priorities, please visit https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/funding/PriorityDomains2019.pdf**

Pilot Project Award

PILOT: $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:

- 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.

Social Determinants of Health

- **SDOH Merit Review Awards**
  - Up to 4 years
  - Budget may not exceed $1.2 million

- **SDOH Pilot Projects**
  - Up to 18 months
  - Budget may not exceed $200,000
  - Generate data to establish feasibility of an IIR
  - Establish a new partnership with an outside organization
  - Answer a question of high value to a clinical or operations partner

Link to CyberSeminar:
http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=3787

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.

Resubmissions Only

Planning RPE:
- **$50,000 for 9 months (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 for 4 years (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.

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.

COVID-19 Rapid Response Projects

Funding announcement released March 18, 2020
https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/funding/Rapid-Response-Projects_COVID19.pdf

- Jumpstart research efforts by supporting work related to COVID-19
  - Planning projects ("preparatory to research activities")
  - Short-term pilots
  - Data analysis projects

Projects are NOT subject to administrative hold/stand down

Projects must not interfere with the mission critical work of VA clinical and operations partners in their response to COVID-19

- Do NOT reach out to VA clinical operations leaders or national program offices
- PIs should discuss plans with local facilities, including ACOS-R), to avoid undue imposition on clinical systems
  - Formal letters of support are NOT required

COVID-19 Rapid Response Projects

Timeline, Review, & Award
- First submissions due Monday, April 6 (decisions announced by May 1)
  - Subsequent applications reviewed on a rolling basis through July 1, 2020
- Projects are expected to start as soon as feasible after award

Application
- Concept paper (3 pages)
- Summary budget table & budget justification
  - Budget should be well-justified with respect to the proposed work and what can be realistically spent within the 9-month period of funding.
    - Estimate that most projects (though there could be exceptions) would be in the neighborhood of $25,000 - $100,000.
- Submitted by the PI's VA Research Office

Direct questions to: HSRD via vhacoordcoin@va.gov

Career Development Award Mentored Research

The narrative page limit is 14 pages.

Letter of Intent – Deadline April 15, 2020: reviewed for acceptance
ITS required (ART) Window: April 24 to May 8, 2020
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 Mentored Research

Letter of Intent – Deadline April 15, 2020: reviewed for acceptance

ITS required (ART) Window: April 24 to May 8, 2020
https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cdp/default.cfm

- **VA primary mentor and HBCU co-mentor required**
- **Nominee must have attended an HBCU or have a faculty appointment at an HBCU**

- **5 years of Salary Support**
- **Supplement support funds $65,000/year Years 1-3**

- **Follows CDA-2 application format**
- **Candidate's training, experience and research accomplishments**
- **Career Plan**
- **Mentoring Plan**

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Calendar

Date	Event
Date	**Event**
April 15, 2020	CDA Letter of Intent due
April 24, 2020	ITS Opens and CDA ITS deadline
May 8, 2020	ITS Closes
May 15, 2020	Waiver deadline
May 15, 2020	Grants.gov opens
June 10, 2020	Down to the Wire Submission
June 12, 2020	Last Submission Date Grants.gov
June 15, 2020	Verification Deadline
August 2020	Scientific Merit Review

Questions

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Social Determinants of Health RFA:
Alexandra.Neuhaus-Follini@va.gov
COVID-19 Rapid Response Projects:
vhacoordcoin@va.gov
HSR&D RFAs:
http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm

Thank you for your attendance. Please stay safe. We appreciate your efforts during the COVID-19 crisis. We hope to review your application soon!