Researchers & Evaluators in Residence (REiR) Program

Direct questions to CEIR@va.gov

Overview

VA's Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) is requesting applications from VA program or VISN offices that are interested in a new form of partnership with researchers. Given limited staffing, VA program or VISN offices may be constrained by their analytical capacity in efforts to evaluate programs and policies. Therefore, HSR&D is offering these offices the option to leverage its researchers, who are already embedded in the VA system, to better inform VA programs and policies and improve care for Veterans. The REiR program is an opportunity for these offices to benefit from HSR&D investigators' expertise in research methods and analysis, while HSR&D investigators will benefit by increasing their understanding of important policy and operations questions and relevant data sources.

Interested program office "hosts" should identify the policy or clinical issue for which they are seeking help and the type of expertise and experience needed. Examples of potential projects include analyzing the impact of a policy change; developing evidence-based policy responses to an emerging clinical problem; exploring factors associated with variation in clinical performance).

Funding for personnel salary, travel, and lodging during the program would come from ORD. Generally, support will be limited to a maximum of $35,000 per residency (and based on available funds within HSR&D). Duration and support will be based on the success of the relationship and program office or VISN office needs. *Note: Because the REiR program is supported by research (Program 824) funds, clinician salaries cannot be covered. Clinicians are still eligible to apply and can receive funding for travel and logistical support.*

VA Program or VISN Office Application

Proposals should be submitted via [this web form link](). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly. Quarterly deadlines for applications to be reviewed are September 30, December 30, March 31, and June 30.

Please include a brief description of the policy or program planning question that would benefit from additional researcher support and expertise; objectives and deliverables (that can be accomplished within one year); investigator qualifications; and preferred logistical arrangements (e.g., duration of assignment, amount of inperson time needed to establish relationships).

Residents may work virtually; however, host offices are expected to provide a desk and computer when the resident is working onsite. The host must also provide data access for the researcher.

To help HSR&D monitor and improve the REiR Program, host offices will be required to complete a brief mid-year assessment and final report, which should include any products arising from this program.

Review & Award

Proposals will be administratively reviewed by HSR&D based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with VA national priority
2. Program Office's existing partnerships with VA research
   > Priority will be given to host offices that do not already have a major linkage to VA HSR&D, Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) investigators, or access to HSR&D Data Resource Centers.
3. Clarity and credibility of the proposed request, including potential for rigorous, high-impact work
4. Feasibility of achieving the proposed objectives
5. Host office support (data access, computer access when onsite)
6. Potential impact on Veteran care, within and/or outside VA