



## PA FOUNDATION

### 2022 NIDA Mentored Outreach Award in Substance Use Disorders (SUD) Treatment Dissemination

*Supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in partnership with the PA Foundation*

#### **DATES AND DEADLINE INFORMATION**

Application opens: September 15, 2022

Deadline for receipt of application: October 13, 2022

Notification of award: Early December 2022

Mandatory Mentored Outreach Award Training Orientation: December 16, 2022

Funding period: January 6, 2023 – December 30, 2023

Up to two awards are available for this cycle.

Apply here: <https://pa-foundation.org/nida-mentored-outreach-award/>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Accelerating the dissemination of substance use disorder (SUD), particularly opioid use disorder (OUD), research findings and encouraging the implementation of evidence-based practices in healthcare settings is a priority for NIDA and represents the core mission of the [NIDA CTN Dissemination Initiative](https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals) (also refer to: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals>). This initiative uses collaboration between expert clinicians, clinical researchers, experienced trainers, and NIDA staff to rapidly disseminate research findings from NIDA's vast scientific portfolio to a variety of stakeholders, including policymakers, program administrators, and frontline prevention and treatment providers.

The PA Foundation has partnered with NIDA CTN to fund NIDA Mentored Outreach Awards, a key component of the NIDA CTN Dissemination Initiative, supporting the development of expertise in SUD, especially OUD, through the completion of a mentor-supervised project focused on adoption and/or dissemination of SUD treatment research and the publication of the results. The goals of the award are: 1) to promote and improve knowledge of evidence-based SUD treatment among healthcare providers, 2) to promote the adoption of evidence-based approaches in medical settings, 3) to promote the dissemination of substance use disorder research findings, and 4) to facilitate the professional growth and development of future clinician leaders in the area of SUD management.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE AWARD**

The purpose of the award is to enhance the awardee's ability to disseminate and/or adopt evidence-based SUD treatment practices through a mentored project that will:

- Provide the PA awardee with experience that enhances knowledge of providing evidence-based management of SUD in medical settings and fosters interest in potentially seeking grants to pursue implementation in the field of substance misuse and substance use disorder in subsequent years.
- Provide the PA awardee with a mentored experience in effective dissemination of existing or emerging research findings and/or the implementation/adoption of research in clinical practice. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that address or improve upon current gaps in the dissemination of research findings or implementation/adoption of evidence-based treatment practices. Project updates will be shared at the NIDA CTN Annual Meeting. Project results will be

presented at the 2024 AAPA Annual Conference. Poster presentations are acceptable. The awardee is strongly encouraged to develop a manuscript for submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

- Link the PA awardee with an experienced mentor to guide and facilitate an up to one-year-long mentored experience, culminating in a project related to dissemination and/or adoption of SUD research findings.
- Provide the PA awardee with a mentored opportunity to learn about key areas of SUD and SUD treatment strategies through systematic literature review, attendance at conferences and workshops, and interaction with leading experts in the field.

## **MENTORSHIP**

The applicant should work in an active, progressive environment that intimately involves the applicant in different facets of SUD treatment. Award recipients should select a mentor with established SUD management and/or research track record. It is suggested that the mentor also have dissemination and implementation science expertise. The mentor is responsible for: providing a letter of support with plans for regular phone or video meetings; assisting with planning and execution of the project; and assisting with developing the poster and PowerPoint presentations. Applicants are encouraged to develop a project related to work done by their mentor. This award will provide a mentor stipend. More than one mentor may be proposed.

## **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

All applications must be submitted by one or more PAs who are AAPA Fellow members in good standing.

In the evaluation process, preference will be given to those applicants who have not already been awarded a grant from the PA Foundation within the preceding 12 months (including both IMPACT Grants and Global Outreach Grants).

Eligible candidates must not have a NIH research fellowship or a NIH research award or a NIH career development award.

**This award cannot be used to conduct basic or clinical research studies or trials.** Applications proposing non-exempt research involving human subjects that must be reviewed by an IRB under the requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations at 45 CFR part 46 **will not be eligible.** Secondary data analysis of treatment research datasets may be completed in pursuit of award goals, provided the project proposed is eligible for Institutional Review Board (IRB) exemption and displays merit to impact on or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLES AND RECOMMENDED TOPIC AREAS**

For the Mentored Outreach Award, NIDA and the PA Foundation encourage clinically relevant applications with a focus on treatment of substance use disorders and the dissemination of research findings or facilitation of adoption of evidence-based practices in clinical settings. To this end, awardees are to develop and execute a plan designed to increase their own clinical knowledge of the management of SUD, especially OUD. They will then design and complete a project aimed at improving the dissemination and/or adoption of existing SUD treatment research findings.

### **Examples of appropriate activities and projects include but are not limited to:**

- Reviewing available curricula or training programs, identifying status of education on SUD, especially opioid misuse, OUD diagnosis and management in various settings, and proposing and conducting activities to improve or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices.
- Developing materials that could be used for quality improvement or integration of an evidence-based approach or process, in the management of SUD, including OUD, in a medical setting and conducting activities for quality improvement or adoption.
- Identifying training gaps and research findings and/or products developed by NIDA or other federal agencies or professional associations that could bridge gaps, identifying potential partners

for effective dissemination of these findings and disseminating them within existing or newly developed communication channels.

- Analysis of de-identified data from completed clinical trials such as those found on the NIDA Data Share website (<https://datashare.nida.nih.gov/>) to inform dissemination or implementation efforts; to characterize availability of data on substance use or practice patterns; identify gaps in the provision of evidence-based practices; and/or identify needs for dissemination or implementation.
- Addressing youth SUD—projects focused on targeting teens and young adults. Examples might include:
  - Identifying existing posters/videos raising awareness of synthetic drug use in high schools and conducting activities to disseminate information
  - Addressing substance misuse and substance use disorders in high school and college athletics
    - Literature review of long-term effects of substance use in athletes
    - Identifying existing educational materials for presentations to high school and college athletes and conducting activities to disseminate research and educate stakeholders
  - Raising awareness among healthcare providers and the general population about community services available to assist substance users and their loved ones
- Identifying instructional materials that could be distributed by healthcare providers in locations where Naloxone is available OTC and conducting activities to promote improvements in quality of care
- Promotion/awareness of community resources which utilize evidence-based practices
  - Needle exchanges
  - Treatment centers offering medication assisted treatment
- Other activities consistent with the goals of the Dissemination Initiative to accelerate the dissemination of research findings and implementation or adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment in clinical practice.

### **AWARD ADMINISTRATION, APPLICATION, AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The PA Foundation will administer the NIDA Mentored Outreach Award through planning, on-site coordination, and evaluation of applications. Candidates cannot have previous or simultaneous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or research funding sources. Eligible candidates may not have a training award.

Award recipients are selected through a competitive process. Applicants must submit the following information:

#### **A completed application form to include:**

- Abstract
- Candidate attestations
- Project description/plan (to include objectives, background information, and method or proposed activities – see specific elements below)
- Project timeline
- Budget and budget justification
- Applicant's current CV/biosketch
- Mentor's current CV/biosketch
- Description of facilities available for project
- Letter of support from proposed mentor(s)
- If applicable: Letter of support if the proposed project uses facilities not routinely available to or directly under the supervision of the sponsoring organization

#### **Proposal/Project Plan**

The written project proposal/plan (maximum 8 pages) should address the following:

- What is the SUD issue this project seeks to address?
- What are the characteristics of the patient population this project will serve?

- Significance: Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Specific aims: List the specific objectives and goals of the project proposed, including the impact that the results of the proposed project will exert on the field(s) involved.
- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and evaluation to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include any potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success.
- Innovation, creativity – Explain how the application addresses and seeks to shift current knowledge bases or treatment practices. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, dissemination approaches, curricula or instrumentation to be developed or used.
- How will the applicant disseminate the outcome of the project?
- Explain how other PAs, PA students, and/or other members of the healthcare team will be involved in this project. How many will be involved and what are their roles?
- Describe how a local SUD expert(s)/mentor(s) will be involved in this project. How will the applicant and mentor(s) work together to achieve the goals of the award year? How will the mentor(s) monitor the progress of the awardee?
- Demonstrate how the project will improve or enhance population health.
- Demonstrate potential to further impact use of evidence-based SUD practice models.

Each application will be reviewed by researchers, program managers and/or clinicians who are involved and informed in dissemination of findings from the field of SUD. Each application will be judged primarily by the likelihood of producing dedicated, qualified clinicians and champions in the field of medicine and SUD as indicated by 1) the qualifications of the applicant, 2) the qualifications of the mentor, 3) the overall merit of the project plan and project, 4) the adequacy of the proposed budget to meet the objectives, and 5) the availability of/access to necessary facilities and support to complete the project as described.

#### **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

Mentored Outreach Award Individual Meeting: The awardee and the designated mentor are required to participate in a virtual meeting to discuss the expectations of the program.

Quarterly Meetings: The awardee is required to participate in 4 quarterly meetings to discuss the progress of the awardee with their perspective projects.

Progress and Final Reports: The awardee and designated mentor are required to submit a 6-month narrative progress report and a final narrative report at the end of the performance period. Failure to provide the report may negatively impact your institution's ability to apply for future awards. These reports will be submitted to the PA Foundation for subsequent submission to NIDA. In the event that the awardee's project is not completed at the end of the designated performance period, and appropriate approvals to continue have been granted, the final report must still be submitted as an outline of work done and projections for work/expenditures remaining.

Institutional Annual Meeting: Attendance is expected at the 2024 AAPA Annual Conference, where the awardees will present a poster abstract of their work following the completion of the award.

NIDA CTN Meeting: Awardees are also expected to attend the NIDA Clinical Trials Network Annual Steering Committee Meeting. Mentors are highly encouraged to attend. The Coordination Office will ensure that funds from each stipend are used to support air travel and hotel accommodations. Any remaining funds will be returned to the awardee to assist with project dissemination.

Publications: All work supported in part by the NIDA Award should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels such as national meetings and peer-reviewed publications. Publications will acknowledge the support of NIDA and the PA Foundation. Two reprints of each publication should be forwarded to the PA Foundation and NIDA.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Awardees will be contacted annually by the Dissemination Initiative following completion of the funding year regarding career paths, ongoing dissemination or implementation activities, leadership in promoting the adoption of evidence-based practices in clinical settings, subsequent grants/contracts obtained, and publications. Awardees will be expected to respond to this outreach.

## **PROGRAM PROMOTION**

The NIDA Mentored Outreach Award will be promoted and advertised through institutional marketing vehicles such as: newsletters, website links, member emails, exhibits, etc. Individuals directly involved with potential awardees, including training directors and program directors, will be contacted through listservs to encourage application to the program.

## **BUDGET**

The budget consists of up to \$10,000 for the awardee stipend and up to \$2,000 stipend for the mentor. Awards are contingent on availability of funds. Funds may be used for travel to the 2024 AAPA Annual Conference and the 2023 CTN Annual Meeting. Funds may also be used for educational and resource materials/courses.

## **SUPPORT FACILITIES**

The applicant must submit letters of support if the proposed project uses facilities not routinely available to or directly under the supervision of their sponsoring institution.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The applicant assumes responsibility for conducting the project and the mentor for supervising the work and advanced education of the applicant and associates. The application must show that adequate and appropriately equipped space will be available during the funding period. If a project proposes secondary data analysis or when appropriate, projects must be eligible for and obtain IRB exemption.

## **SYNOPSIS**

The NIDA Mentored Outreach Award in Substance Use Disorders is designed to provide opportunities to enhance knowledge of SUD and SUD treatment, to promote dissemination of substance use disorder research findings, and to promote the adoption of evidence-based approaches in clinical settings. By participating in this program, awardees gain valuable training and mentored experience in the management of substance use and SUD, facilitate the dissemination of research findings in medical settings, and work on improving treatment of SUD. The goal is for more healthcare providers to choose to continue their education and training in the field, providing a stronger integrated health workforce, both in numbers and expertise.

## **TERMS OF THE AWARD**

**This award cannot support new, free-standing pilot research, clinical trials, or clinical research studies.** Any proposed activities such as secondary analyses or quality improvement initiatives must be eligible for IRB exemption and display merit to impact on or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices. Focus groups and informal interviews may be conducted if eligible for IRB exemption and will inform the mentored project.

Duration: Applications will be accepted for one year of training only.

Extension of Award Period: In unusual circumstances, arrangements can be made for an extension of an award. Such a request must be made by the awardee at least 60 days before the expiration date of the award. This request must be made in writing, specify reasons for requesting the extension, and state a new expiration date. Project extensions of greater than six months will not be considered.

Change of Status of Designated Mentor or Awardee: If the awardee changes affiliations or ceases work in the field for which the award was made, the award will terminate and the remaining balance will be returned unless the awardee and his or her new institution demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the planned project and the plan for this is approved. If the named mentor changes affiliations

or ceases work in the field for which the award was made, the award will terminate and the remaining balance will be returned unless another appropriate mentor or plan to ensure appropriate mentoring is identified and approved.

Location of work: Awards are for projects in the United States at an accredited medical school, medical center, or institution affiliated with a university teaching program. The awardee, with the direction of the mentor, will make all arrangements for conduct of the proposed projects.

Liability of the PA Foundation and National Institute on Drug Abuse: The PA Foundation and NIDA assume no financial liability if patient care responsibilities of any kind are undertaken by the NIDA awardee or mentor. The mentor, the awardee, and their respective institution(s) acknowledge that NIDA and the PA Foundation are not legally liable for the conduct of the awardee or the mentor and associate investigators.

Patent Policy: The mentor, the awardee, and their respective institution(s) acknowledge that if a patentable invention or discovery is conceived, or conceived and reduced to practice by the award during the term of the award year, NIDA and the PA Foundation must be apprised of the invention and the institution's plans for protecting such invention under existing institutional patent policy. The PA Foundation will defer to institutional policies where they are in compliance with those of the Federal government. NIDA and the PA Foundation reserve the right where the institution has no patent policy, or policies not in compliance with those of the federal government, to claim rights and interests in the invention or discovery consistent with FAR Clause 52.227-11, Patent Rights-Ownership by the Contractor.

#### **IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES**

- Application opens: September 15, 2022
- Application deadline: October 13, 2022
- Awardees announced: December 2, 2022
- Mentored Outreach Award training orientation: December 16, 2022
- Award funding begins: January 6, 2023
- Awardee individual meeting completed by: February 3, 2023
- Submission of poster/presentation due: March 24, 2023 **\*\*tentative\*\***
- Annual NIDA-CTN Meeting: April 19-21, 2023 **\*\*tentative\*\***
- First quarterly meeting completed by: March 31, 2023
- Interim awardee feedback (orientation & NIDA CTN Meeting): April 24-May 24, 2023
- Awardee midway progress report due: June 29, 2023
- Interim program feedback (responses required from mentors, awardees, administrators): June 15-29, 2023
- Second quarterly meeting completed by: June 29, 2023
- Third quarterly meeting completed by: September 29, 2023
- Fourth quarterly meeting completed by: December 29, 2023
- Final report due: December 29, 2023