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 period opens: September 16, 2019
Deadline for receipt of application: November 4, 2019
Notification of award: December 6, 2019
Funding period: January 2020 – December 2020
Up to two awards are available in this cycle.
Apply here: https://pa-foundation.org/nida-mentored-outreach-award/

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The PA Foundation has partnered with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to fund outreach awards to support the development of expertise in substance use disorders (SUD), especially opioid use disorders (OUD), through completion of a mentor-supervised project focused on adoption and/or dissemination of SUD treatment research and the publication of the results. The NIDA Mentored Outreach Award goals 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 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.

Accelerating the dissemination of SUD 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. 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 policy-makers, program administrators and frontline prevention and treatment providers.

This award cannot be used to conduct basic or clinical research studies or trials. Awardees are to develop and execute a plan designed to increase their clinical knowledge of the management of SUD, especially OUD, and complete a project **aimed at improving the dissemination and/or adoption of existing SUD treatment research findings**. Secondary data analysis of treatment research datasets may be completed in pursuit of these aims, 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.

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 accepted.

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The purpose of the award is to enhance PAs' ability to disseminate the clinical knowledge of SUD management gained via the award experience of conducting a mentored project aimed at either dissemination and/or adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment practices through a plan that will:

- Provide the PA with experience that enhances knowledge of providing evidence-based management of SUD in medical settings while encouraging PAs to provide SUD treatment to patients with addictions regardless of practice setting.

- Provide the PA 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. Projects will be presented via poster at the 2021 AAPA Annual Conference. The awardee is strongly encouraged to develop a manuscript for submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

- Link the PA 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 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 healthcare environment that has the potential to involve the applicant in different facets of SUD treatment. Award recipients should select a mentor with established SUD treatment expertise. It is recommended 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 presentation. This award will provide a mentor stipend. Applicants are encouraged to develop a project related to ongoing work done by their mentor. More than one mentor may be proposed.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

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

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). Candidates cannot have had previous or simultaneous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or research funding sources. Eligible candidates may not have a previous training award.

PROJECT EXAMPLES AND RECOMMENDED TOPIC AREAS

For this mentored outreach award, NIDA and the PA Foundation encourage clinically relevant applications with a focus on improving dissemination of SUD treatment knowledge or facilitation of adoption of evidence-based practices in clinical settings. **This funding cannot support new, free-standing pilot studies, clinical trials, or clinical research studies.** Any proposed activities such as secondary analyses or quality improvement initiatives must be IRB exempt. Projects should focus on improving dissemination of treatment research and/or facilitating implementation of evidence-based

practices.

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 practice
- 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
- Secondary 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
- Analysis of de-identified data from electronic health records or registries such as the ACEP Clinical Emergency Data Registry (https://www.acep.org/cedr/) 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 NIDA to accelerate the dissemination of research findings and evidence-based practices in SUD to healthcare providers or other members of the community and the implementation or adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment in clinical practice.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION, APPLICATION, AND SELECTION PROCESS

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

- A completed application form that includes:
    - Abstract
    - Candidate attestations
    - Project description/plan (to include objectives, background information, timeline, and method or proposed activities as outlined below)
    - Budget and budget justification
    - Applicant's current CV/biosketch
    - Mentor's current CV/biosketch
    - Letter of support from proposed mentor(s)

- Letter of support regarding facilities (if applicable)

Proposal/Project Plan

The written proposal (maximum 5 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?
- How will the applicant disseminate the outcome of the project?
- Show how other PAs will be involved in this program/project. How many will be involved and what are their roles?
- Show how a local SUD expert(s)/mentor(s) will be involved in this program/project
- Demonstrate how the project will improve or enhance population health
- Demonstrate potential to further impact use of evidence-based SUD practice models
- Innovation, creativity
- Humanitarian, community focus

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 2021 AAPA Annual Conference and the 2020 CTN Annual Meeting. Funds may also be used for educational and resource materials/courses. **Please note that the stipend may not be used to pay salaries or to reimburse organizations for salaries. Funding will not be provided to cover any indirect/administrative costs.**

Support Facilities

The applicant must submit a letter of support if the proposed project uses facilities not routinely available to or directly under the supervision of the sponsoring program. The application must show that adequate and appropriately equipped space will be available during the funding period.

Review Criteria

Each application will be reviewed by the PA Foundation Grant Review Committee. Each application will be judged on its ability to advance patient care and SUD best practices as indicated by 1) the overall merit of the training plan and project, 2) the adequacy of the proposed budget to meet the objectives, and 3) the ability of the applicant to accomplish project goals, including access to the necessary facilities and support to complete the project as described.

The proposal will be reviewed and rated based on the following specific criteria:

- Focus areas – is it focused on patient/healthcare provider resources and/or health outcomes?
- How well does the proposal integrate evidence-based SUD models of care and the opportunity to integrate education into clinical visits?
- How realistic is the timeframe, and are there clearly established milestones to achieve the timeline?
- How well does the proposal demonstrate leadership by the PA applicant?
- How well does the proposal promote PA leadership in the community?
- How well does the proposal incorporate other PAs in the project?
- Does the proposal incorporate a local SUD expert/mentor?
- Significance of proposal and impact on target population
- Is there a clearly-defined community focus, and is there adequate infrastructure to support the proposal?

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

<u>Progress and Final Reports:</u> The mentor and applicant 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 the applicant'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 applicant'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.

NIDA Awardee Orientation: Participation in a webcast orientation is expected by all award recipients. The orientation will take place on December 18, 2019.

NIDA Mentor Orientation: Participation in a webcast orientation is expected by all mentors. The orientation will take place on December 18, 2019.

Institutional Annual Conference: Attendance is expected at the 2021 AAPA Annual Conference, where the recipients will present a poster of their work following the completion of the project. The meeting will take place May 22-26, 2021, in Philadelphia, PA.

NIDA CTN Annual Meeting: Recipients are also expected to attend the NIDA Clinical Trials Network Annual Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting will take place March 23-25, 2020, in Bethesda, MD. Mentors are highly encouraged to attend. The Coordination Office will ensure that funds from each stipend are used to coordinate air travel and hotel accommodations. Any remaining funds will be returned to the trainee to assist with research projects.

Publications: All discoveries resulting from 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 sponsoring organization and NIDA.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Recipients will be contacted annually 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. Recipients will be expected to respond to these surveys.

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

Duration: Applications will be accepted for one-year projects only.

Extension of Award Period: In unusual circumstances, arrangements can be made for an extension. 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 Trainee: If the trainee 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 trainee 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, medical practice, institution providing medical services outside a hospital system (such as a correctional facility) or institution affiliated with a university teaching program. The trainee, 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 16, 2019
- Application deadline: November 4, 2019
- Awardee/mentor orientation: December 18, 2019
- Award funding begins: January 6, 2020
- Interim Surveys (via SurveyMonkey) due: March 16-27, 2020; July 8-19, 2020; February 2021
- Annual NIDA CTN Meeting: March 23-25, 2020
- Midway progress report due: June 26, 2020
- Final report due: December 27, 2020