



## PA FOUNDATION

# 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:** October 15, 2016

**Deadline for receipt of application:** December 16, 2016

**Notification of award:** Late December 2016

**Funding period:** January 1, 2017 - January 10, 2018

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Accelerating the dissemination of substance use disorders (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 Blending 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.

The PA Foundation has partnered with NIDA to fund a mentored SUD outreach award to support the development of expertise in SUD through completion of a mentored experience and project that disseminates existing evidence-based treatment science. The NIDA Mentored Outreach Award goals are: 1) to promote and improve knowledge of evidence-based SUD treatment among healthcare providers, 2) to promote dissemination of substance use disorder research findings, 3) to promote the adoption of evidence-based approaches in medical settings, and 4) to facilitate the academic and practice growth and development of future leaders in SUD management.

**This funding cannot be used to conduct basic or clinical research studies or trials.** Recipients are to develop and execute a plan designed to increase their knowledge of SUD and SUD treatment and complete a project **aimed at improving the dissemination and/or adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment knowledge.** Secondary data analysis may be completed in pursuit of these aims, provided the project proposed is IRB exempt and has a dissemination/adoption focus.

***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 PROJECT**

The purpose of the project is to enhance PAs' knowledge of SUD treatment research and the dissemination and 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.

Provide the PA awardee with education and experience in identifying evidence and developing strategies and resources that could be used in clinical practice or the dissemination and implementation of existing treatment strategies. 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. The projects will be presented via poster at the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference.

Link the PA with an experienced mentor to guide and facilitate a mentored experience of up to one year, with the outcome being 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 PA will be partnered with an assigned mentor with established SUD treatment expertise. The mentor is responsible for providing regular phone or video meetings, assisting with planning and execution of the project, and assisting with developing the poster presentation.

Applicants are also encouraged to partner with a local SUD expert as a secondary mentor. There are no firm requirements for this partnership, but applicants are encouraged to submit a statement of support from the mentor that includes a commitment to meet with the awardee to discuss the project.

## **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

All applications must be submitted by one or more PAs or PA students 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 diagnosis and treatment in various settings, and proposing and conducting activities to improve training
- Identifying best practices or effective strategies or models for SUD education
- Developing materials that could be used for quality improvement or integration of an evidence-based approach or process in a medical setting and conducting activities for quality improvement or adoption
- Identifying training gaps and research findings and/or NIDA products 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 the Blending Initiative 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/brief project description, project plan with timeline for the project funding year, budget and budget justification, and statement of support from a local mentor (if applicable). The project description should include objectives, background information, and method or proposed activities.
- The applicant's current CV/biosketch

### **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 or PA students will be involved in this program/project. How many will be involved and what are their roles?
- Show how a local SUD expert/mentor will be involved in this program/project (if applicable).
- Ability to demonstrate how the project will improve or enhance population health
- Potential to further impact use of evidence-based SUD practice models
- Innovation, creativity
- Humanitarian, community focus

### **Budget**

The stipend will be in the amount of \$5,000. Funds may be used for travel to the AAPA Annual Conference and the 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/PA student applicant?
- How well does the proposal promote PA leadership in the community?
- How well does the proposal incorporate other PAs/PA students 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**

Progress and Final Reports: 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.

Institutional Annual Conference: Attendance is expected at the 2018 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 19-23, 2018, in New Orleans, LA.

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 23-24, 2017, in Bethesda, MD.

Publications: All discoveries resulting from work supported in part by NIDA 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**

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, award recipients 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 enhance their knowledge 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 Recipient: If the recipient 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 recipient and his or her new institution demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the planned project and the plan for this is approved.