



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



# Dissemination and Implementation of Equity-Focused Evidence-Based Interventions in Healthcare Delivery Systems R18 Funding Opportunity (RFA-HS-23-002)

Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinar

March 9, 2023, 2-3 PM EST

# Agenda



1. AHRQ Staff introductions
2. Overview of the Notice of Funding Opportunity
3. Previously Received Questions & Answers
4. Live Question & Answer Period

# Introductions



## **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

### **Office of Extramural Research, Education, and Priority Populations:**

Francis Chesley, MD, Director

From the Division of Priority Populations

- Chivonne Walker, Program Analyst
- Bill Freeman, DrPH, MPH, Senior Advisor for Minority Health

### **Office of Management Services:**

From the Division of Grants Management

- Anna Caponiti, Grants Specialist

# Purpose of this NOFO



The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to seek applications using dissemination and implementation (D&I) science to fill evidence gaps critical to the development, adaption, implementation, and evaluation of equity-focused evidence-based interventions (EFEBIs) to accelerate health equity within healthcare delivery systems.

Evidence-based interventions (EBIs) include but are not limited to care practices, processes, guidelines, programs, and policies shown to have effectiveness across multiple ecological levels (individual, interpersonal, health system, community, and societal/policy).

# Application Components



Applications submitted in response to this NCFHO must include a detailed description of the development, implementation, and evaluation of the EFEBI and include the following:

1. A description of how the holistic/participatory approach ensures that the voices of stakeholder and community members from underserved and priority populations are reflected in all stages of the research process;
2. A description of how the project will address priorities of underserved population(s);
3. A description of the EBI(s) selection, and clear description of the primary outcome measure(s);
4. A discussion of how study designs and methodologies (i.e., alternative or pragmatic) will maximize equity and inclusion, while also balancing aspects of scientific rigor;
5. The inclusion of a graphic framework/model and corresponding description to illustrate how the EBI(s) and research approach addresses evidence gaps;
6. A description of equity-relevant metrics included in the implementation and outcome evaluation;
7. Addressing elements of scalability, sustainability, and dissemination

# Eligibility



- Institutions of Higher Education (Public and Private). The following types of Higher Education Institutions are always encouraged to apply for AHRQ support:
  - Hispanic-serving Institutions
  - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
  - Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
  - Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
  - Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)
- Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education
- Federal and Local Governments
- Other organizations including independent School Districts, Public Housing Authorities/Indian Housing Authorities, Native American Tribal Organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Faith-based or Community-based Organizations, Regional Organizations

AHRQ's authorizing legislation does not allow for-profit organizations to be eligible to lead applications under this research mechanism. For-profit organizations may participate in projects as members of consortia or as subcontractors only.

# Key Dates & Award Information



## Key dates:

- Posted: 2/15/2023
- Application Due Date: 4/21/2023  
(5:00 PM local time of applicant organization)

**Number of awards:** Up to 6

## Award budget:

Total annual costs (direct and indirect combined) for a project awarded under this NOFO will not exceed \$500,000 in any given year and \$2.5 million for the entire project.

## Award project period:

- The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period.
- The project period may not exceed five years.

# Additional Resources



- Presentation Slides (including questions & answers from today) will be posted to the AHRQ Notice of Funding Opportunities page
- AHRQ Tips for Grant Applicants  
<https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/process/grant-app-basics/apptips.html>
- AHRQ Research Priorities and Compliance Guidance  
<https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/nofoguidance/index.html>



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**AHRQ News Now**  
September 27, 2022, Issue #332

### AHRQ in the Professional Literature

Medicaid and accelerated approval: spending on drugs with and without proven clinical benefits. Sachs RE, Jazowski SA, Gavrilic KA, et al. *J Health Polit Policy Law*. Epub 2022 Jul 14. Access the [abstract](#) on PubMed®.

Therapeutic hyperthermia is associated with improved survival in afebrile critically ill patients with sepsis: a pilot randomized trial. Drewry AM, Mohr NM, Ablordepey EA, et al. *Crit Care (Med)*. 2022 Jun;50(6):924-34. Epub 2022 Feb 7. Access the [abstract](#) on PubMed®.

Mental health emergency department visits by children before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shankar LG, Habich M, Rosenman M, et al. *Acad Pediatr*. 2022 Sep-Oct;22(7):1127-32. Epub 2022 Jun 3. Access the [abstract](#) on PubMed®.

### Opioid Use Among Non-Elderly Adults, by Health Status

	2015-2018	2018-2019
Excellent	8.7%	3.9%
Very Good	10.6%	6.4%
Good	15.1%	10.7%
Fair	28.7%	21.5%
Poor	45.4%	30.8%

Regardless of health status, the average annual percentage of adults younger than 65 who had any use of opioids was lower in 2018-19 than in 2015-18.

Access more on this topic in the associated [data visualization](#), plus additional AHRQ [data infographics](#).

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# Questions and Answers

## **How established does the evidence for the EFEBI(s) need to be?**

The evidence should exist in the peer-reviewed literature, whether previously developed by the applicant, or drawn from research that is not connected directly with the applicant.

The evidence should be sufficient to confidently and convincingly argue that the intervention is likely to result in significant impacts to improving equity in the setting and application of the R18 project.

# **How can the project identify the EFEBI at the application stage while also allowing the community-based participatory research approach?**

In preparation for applying, the project should collaborate with organizations or representatives in their community to understand the health equity challenges and identify appropriate EFEBIs that the project will implement. This may have been done previously as part of prior engagements or during the application preparation and development phase.

## **What organizations can be partnered with to represent “the community”?**

There is a large range of types of organizations and representatives that can serve as community partners. The selected organization or representatives should be appropriate per the EFEBI that is selected.

Community-based participatory research methods can be reviewed by applicants to better understand and explain their selection of partners for engaging with their communities.

**The NOFO states that applications should “...address elements of scalability, sustainability, and dissemination...” Do applications have to prove their projects are sustainable or will be scaled-up after the project period to get awarded?**

No. Applications do not need to prove sustainability or scalability of their projects to be deemed responsive and move to the peer review phase. However, applications should describe in their applications how sustainability, scalability, and dissemination will be addressed in their projects.

# **Do you suggest that we reach out to discuss specific applications with program staff?**

Program staff are available to answer questions and review one-page project descriptions.

# **Are we allowed to include funding for care delivery staff (e.g., CHWs embedded in the healthcare system) in our budgets?**

This is dependent on the type and amount of compensation, and project specific structure and design.



# Are persons with disabilities included in your definition of minority populations?

Yes.

**Can a proposal be linked with other NIH proposals, to address multi-dimensional aspects of a minority health problem. For example, community-based telehealth services to support minority patients with diabetes, depression, et cetera?**

No.

**Is there a possibility to extend the due date for this NOFO?**

No.

## **Are refugees/asylees included as a priority population?**

Refugees or asylees are not included in the Congressional specifications of an AHRQ priority population.

**Will the priority areas for AHRQ also be considered in the review of applications? For instance, climate change or digital health safety as AHRQ priority areas?**

Yes, AHRQ research priorities will be considered in the assessment of applications.

# Is there a resubmission opportunity with the RFA?

There is no opportunity for a resubmission.

**Related to the resubmission question, do we know if this will be only offered this year or any chance there will be future submission opportunities?**

We do not have information on future funding opportunities.

# How many applications do you typically get?

In each NOFO draws different numbers of applications.



## **If you have additional questions:**

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## **Post Webinar Survey**

Please complete the post-webinar survey so we can improve our NOFO outreach and technical assistance webinars in the future.