

Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) eHealth Rapid Response Projects (RRPs)

This message announces the availability of Medical Care (Program 870) funds for rapid-response implementation projects meeting the specific criteria outlined below. **This solicitation is specifically for proposals focused on consumer-directed eHealth applications, including My HealthVet, that are consistent with the strategic plan of the eHealth QUERI Center.** Potential applicants will be able to submit at future RRP deadlines as well. This solicitation is intended to fund projects with the launch of the eHealth QUERI.

A. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this special funding program, projects must demonstrate the following criteria:

1. Consistency with the eHealth QUERI Center's Strategic Plan (Posted under Announcements <http://www.queri.research.va.gov/default.cfm>). A support letter from the eHealth QUERI indicating that the proposed project will advance the center's achievement of strategic goals must be included.
2. PI must meet HSR&D eligibility criteria and have a 5/8 VA appointment at time of funding.
3. The project timeline should not exceed 1 year and the budget should not exceed \$100,000.
4. Travel funds may be requested but must be reasonable for the scope of the project
5. Active partnership between researchers and clinicians, managers, and leaders at VAMC, VISN, or VACO levels.
6. Formative and summative evaluation, as appropriate, designed to identify barriers and facilitators to change.
7. Where appropriate, there should be sufficient cost analysis to inform future resource allocation decisions (<http://www.queri.research.va.gov/economic-analysis.doc>)

PIs may submit pilot projects, pre-implementation planning efforts, as well as small projects that follow up on recently completed implementation efforts. Projects may also support development and initial testing of improvement tools or education materials for Veterans and their families. Proposals should describe what the follow-on activities to a project might be – for example, larger-scale pilots, specific comparative trial, dissemination of implementation tools, etc.— and how they would further the eHealth Center goals. Projects to develop new applications to be delivered through My HealthVet are not encouraged for this solicitation but may be of interest in the future.

The eHealth QUERI center goals are: 1) to augment access and meaningful use of eHealth; and 2) to enhance Veteran self-management and participation in collaborative care through the design, evaluation, and implementation of appropriate eHealth tools.

Areas of particular interest for this submission are projects that meet the eHealth QUERI goals above, such as:

1. Projects that focus on the evaluation of the secure messaging function of My HealthVet.
2. Projects that include evaluation of the "Blue Button" function of My HealthVet.
3. Projects that compare meaningful use of My HealthVet with My HealthVet plus other eHealth tools.
4. Projects that include or address access and In-Person Authentication (IPA) for My HealthVet

Successful projects will meet many of the following categories:

- a. Projects that utilize the developing field site network of the eHealth QUERI, allowing for impact on multiple facilities.
- b. Projects that engage new QUERI partners – such as, Office of Nursing Services; National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; OIT; My HealthVet; Office of Quality and Safety
- c. Projects focusing on how and why improvements are adopted and spread; not just whether implementations are adopted and succeed.
- d. Projects that address how we can sustain use/ongoing use of MHV. Studies that examine provider engagement with and use of MHV as a means of caring for their patients. Studies that identify facilitators and barriers to MHV engagement and use – could be at any level – org, patient or provider.
- e. Projects that enhance access to evidence-based care and continuity and coordination of care for new veterans entering the VA healthcare system.
- f. Interventions directed towards patient self-management.
- g. Interventions addressing access and equity issues.
- h. Projects tied to Patient Care Services intervention rollouts or projects designed to inform policy.
- i. Projects that include a sufficient economic analysis to help inform VA decision makers.

B. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Deadlines

Applicants should coordinate with and obtain a letter of support from the eHealth QUERI.

If there are additional questions, interested applicants may contact Thomas Houston, MD, MPH, Director, eHealth QUERI Thomas.Houston2@va.gov. Questions that are substantive in nature regarding contextual alignment and overall content of proposed eHealth RRP's should be directed to the IRC, Stephanie.Shimada@va.gov, for consultation. Technical questions that are administrative in nature regarding submission should be directed to the AC, Jennifer.Schumann1@va.gov.

In order to be *eligible* to receive a letter of support from eHealth QUERI, an intent to submit (ITS) is required. For the ITS, a one page (Arial, size 11 font) summary of the RRP proposal should be **submitted via email** to the Director, IRC and AC no later than **COB Tuesday, March 1, 2011**. The draft should include the following: (a) PI and key co-investigators, (b) specific aims, (c) how the proposal fits in to the eHealth QUERI Strategic Plan, (d) how it will lead to projects that put evidence into practice to improve care through eHealth, (e) what generalizable eHealth and implementation science knowledge will be gained, (f) what data sources and data management support are needed, (g) description of engagement with or support from relevant VA program offices (eg, MHV), including information on how (h) the proposed RRP will address a current implementation priority for that program office.

Determination of whether or not a letter of support will be offered for a given RRP will be made following review of ITS by an ad hoc committee. Those who will receive letters of support will be notified by **Friday, March 11, 2011**.

Letters of support for selected RRP's will be sent to investigators by **Monday, March 21, 2011**.

Final applications for funding under this special initiative should be **submitted via email** to Linda.Mclvor@va.gov no later than **COB Friday, April 8, 2011**. PI's receiving letters of support from the eHealth QUERI are required to send a .pdf copy of the final RRP to the eHealth QUERI Administrative Coordinator (AC).

Investigators should follow the application formatting instructions in Appendix B Instructions for Submission of Applications for Rapid Response Projects in the Special Solicitation for Projects Implementing Research into Practice to Improve Care Delivery at: <http://www.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/docs/queri-implementation.pdf>.

Proposals will be funded based on merit and available funds. An ad hoc group of VA researchers and VHA program/operations representatives will review the proposals. Funding decisions will be made within 8 weeks of the submission deadline, with funds to be distributed as quickly as possible.