

Frequently Asked Questions for: ORD Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

I. Types of VA funding eligible for this opportunity:

1. For the 2 years remaining, can that include No Cost extension or cost extensions?

Answer: Unfortunately, for the purpose of this supplement, there must be 2 years remaining of the original award period. Awards in No Cost or Cost extensions would not be eligible.

2. Would the Nursing Research Initiative be eligible - it is classified as a mentored merit award?

Answer: Unfortunately, Career Development Awards (CDAs) and other mentored awards such as the NRI are not eligible for the supplement.

3. How will VAMCs determine who can apply?

Answer: As only one application will be accepted from each VA Medical Center, we encourage Medical Centers to use their best judgement for determining who can apply based upon the best fit to the application requirements.

4. If a mentor has Merit awards in the last year of funding in the process of renewal and possible NCE requests, is he/she still eligible to apply?

Answer: Unfortunately, for the purpose of this supplement, there must be 2 years remaining of the original award period. Awards in No Cost or Cost extensions would not be eligible.

5. How many applications are you planning to fund?

Answer: Funding decisions will be made based upon number of applications and availability of funds.

6. What types of VA Awards are eligible for this supplement?

Answer: At this time, this supplement opportunity is only open to VA Merits, IIRs and SDRs (Service Directed Merits). Funding from COINs, CORES, Research Centers, CSP and QUERI are not eligible for this supplement. VA QUERI has recently announce a separate type of opportunity for their program: "QUERI Initiative to Advance Diversity in Implementation Leadership (ADIL)." For more information, please contact Melissa Braganza at vacoqueri@va.gov.

II. Eligibility of Early Career Candidates

7. Would VA ORD consider expanding the eligibility to include individuals pursuing post-bac training and graduate students (for VA PI who have university affiliation)?

Answer: ORD is exploring the possibility of instituting future initiatives for post-baccalaureate or graduate students. This current research supplement is open to persons who have completed their doctoral level degree.

8. Are non-clinicians working on their dissertation phase of their PhD be eligible to apply? or does this funding require degree completion prior to applying?

Answer: At this time, the supplement is open only for mentees who have completed their doctoral level degree (i.e. within three years past their PhD or within 3 years past their last clinical training if the proposed mentee is a licensed clinician).

9. What definition is used for underrepresented group? Who will be able to apply?

Answer: The following underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. However, these criteria are intended to increase the applicant pool but will not be used as a final determinative factor in selecting participants in this program.

A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis see in particular data for doctoral degrees awarded to by field of degree, ethnicity, and race of recipients: 2008–18 at: <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/sere/2018/html/sere18-dt-tab016.html>.

As an example, the following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. **In addition**, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting; individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be demonstrated convincingly to be underrepresented by the grantee institution should be encouraged to participate in this program.

B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

C. U.S. Veterans, defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

10. Are clinicians within their first year of graduating fellowship eligible to be mentees?

Answer: Yes. Clinicians who have completed their fellowship within the last 3 years (i.e. are 0-3 years post completion of clinical training) are eligible to be mentees on this supplement. The supplement eligibility criteria are closely tied to the VA CDA program eligibility. Generally, clinicians must be free of their training requirements in order to conduct research and to hold a VA CDA.

11. For clinicians, terminal degree means OTD or DPT etc.?

Answer: To be eligible for applying for future CDAs, the applicant can hold a Doctoral level degree (i.e. PhD or DSc.) or be a licensed physician (e.g. DO, MD, MBBS, etc.) or clinical psychologist. Other clinicians who also hold a PhD or DSc. could be eligible. Please check with individual ORD services for requirements.

12. Must the mentee be a US Citizen as the time of the application?

Answer: Yes, because the eligibility requirements mirror the VA CDA requirements, the early career candidate must be a US Citizen at the time the supplement application is due.