Office of Research & Development
Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

Carol Fowler, PhD
Scientific Program Manager
Office of Research and Development
Department of Veterans Affair
Washington, DC 20002

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This webinar will be recorded
Purpose -1

• To encourage and promote diversity in the VA research workforce

• Supplement awarded to a funded VA Merit

• Intent: to provide funds to support a junior investigator as they prepare for a CDA LOI
Other efforts to increase diversity w/in VA include:

- **Coordinating Resource Center** (Atlanta VAMC and Morehouse)
- **HBCU-CDA-2 program**
- **Virtual Workshop for Early Career Investigators**
- **More opportunities for investigators at other career stages will be added.**
Eligibility: VA Mentor

- Mentor must be PI on a VA Merit Award
  - Award must have 2 years remaining when supplement is awarded
  - VA PI should have a history of mentorship
  - Sole funding from COINs, CORES, Centers, CSP and QUERI not eligible
  - Merits, IIRs and SDR Merits are eligible
  - Participating services: BLR&D, CSR&D, HSR&D, RR&D
Eligibility - Early Career Candidate

- US citizen
- Within first 1-3 years post doctoral level degree
- 1-3 years post last clinical training if the candidate is a licensed clinician
- These underrepresented populations* are encouraged to apply
  - Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by NSF to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis
  - Individuals with disabilities
  - U.S. Veterans
  - *The above criteria are intended to increase the applicant pool but will not be used as a determinative factor in selecting participants in this program.
Eligibility – continued

- Requirements are to ensure future eligibility for CDAs
  - (after 1-2 years on the supplement). General requirements for CDAs:

- CDA-1: within two years of obtaining their terminal degree or training experience after terminal degree.

- CDA-2 the candidate must be within five years of terminal degree OR w/in 5 years of last training for clinicians.
  - BL/CSR&D – w/in 10 years of MD or PhD for Clinical Psychologists
Application - 1

• **Budget:**
  - Up to $85,000/yr for mentee salary and benefits
  - $12,000/yr for research supplies
  - $3,000/yr to attend scientific meetings.
  - Expected commitment: 9 calendar-months for clinicians
    12 calendar-months for non-clinicians

• **Duration:** Up to 2 years

• **Timeline:**
  - Application due **June 1, 2021**
  - Funding decisions expected by first week of **July 2021**
Application - 2

• Via email to VHACOORDDEIWG@va.gov by June 1

• Only one supplement request per VA Medical Center (per year).

• No appeals will be accepted for this funding opportunity.

• Compile application into a single PDF document
  - subject line: “Diversity Supplement Request”
  - Formatting: 11-point Arial font, at least 0.5-inch margins
Application Contents

• Packet contents (see announcement):

• Supplement project plan (8-page limit).
  - ~1 pg: Description of proposed Mentor and Mentor’s VA Research project – include relevant mentoring experience
  - ~1 pg: Description of Early Career Candidate (Personal narrative)
  - ~5 pgs: Description of research project to be undertaken by the mentee
    ➢ Should support development of a CDA 1 or 2 project
    ➢ Follow format in announcement and provide timeline
  - ~ 1 pg: Mentoring Plan – include specific training and resources that will available to mentee
• Letter from the ACOS/R&D (NOT included in the 8 page limit)

• Includes:
  o That candidate qualifies for the supplement
  o Support of the mentor
  o Statement that ACOS/R&D will evaluate the progress of the supplement in writing each year
Application contents-3

• References cited (NOT included in the 8-page limit).

• Budget (NOT included in the 8-page limit).
  o Include: a summary budget worksheet &
  o budget justification for the diversity supplement.
  o Indicate duration of award (1 or 2 years)

• NIH biosketch of the early-career candidate

• NIH biosketch of the mentor – include mentoring history
Review Considerations

• Early Career Candidate
  o Commitment to the VA?
  o Evidence of productivity?
  o Academic/research background for research?

• Funded VA Mentor:
  o Well-documented history of successful training?
  o Good match to the training needs and research plan?
Review Considerations-2

• **Mentoring Plan:**
  - Comprehensive with details of mentoring interactions?
  - Will lead to the mentee’s growth and development?

• **Research Project:**
  - Can develop data for a **distinct** CDA-1 or CDA-2 application?
  - Research project and timeline feasible?
  - Any ethical or biosafety issues pointed out?
Contacts

- Questions: Carol.fowler@va.gov
- Email for submission: VHACOORDDEIWG@va.gov
- Announcement found at: https://www.research.va.gov/funding/
- Good Luck!!
Acknowledgements

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- **ORD DEI WG:** Mark Roltsch, Cendrine Robinson (co-chairs)