

HSRD Center of Innovation (COIN) RFA Webinar

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Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

COIN Objectives

- Provide scientific, data and administrative support to facilitate the development, conduct, and dissemination of health services research
- Promote innovative research in areas that will contribute to short- and long-term improvements in VA health care and Veteran health;
- Recruit, train and mentor scientists and technical experts at various stages of their careers and facilitate retention within VA, especially those from under-represented groups;
- Enhance research collaborations within and across VAMCs and VISNs and between researchers and other health systems, academic and community partners;
- Help implement research findings and improve the understanding and effectiveness of the findings within the VHA health care system;
- Advance research methods, especially those that capitalize on the depth of clinical and administrative data across a diverse system of clinical practice settings;



Eligibility

- Now get credit for HSR-related Research Rehabilitation & Development (RR&D), Clinical Services Research & Development (CSR&D), Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) or Million Veteran Program (MVP) study.
- Must reach out to David/Amy well before ITS submission to obtain project approval.



What Are Appropriate COIN Research Priority Areas?

- Health System Portfolio Priorities (10 + 1)
 - Or components of these priority areas
 - ORD Research Priorities
 - VHA/VA Priorities
 - Cross-Cutting Methodological Issues
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- You just need to convince reviewers that your priority makes sense given the needs of veterans, the VA and health services research.



Health Systems Broad Portfolio – Priority Areas

Access, Community Care, Rural Health

Mental Health (including Suicide, PTSD, etc.)

Chronic Pain/Opioid Use Disorders

Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health

Complex Chronic Care, Primary Care/Prevention, Whole Health

Disability, Function, Long Term Care, and Aging

Women's Health Care

Quality, Safety, and Value

Health Informatics/EHRM/ Data Science, Virtual Care

COVID, Emergency Care, Nursing and Other Emerging Areas

Translation, Implementation & Improvement Science
Veteran Engagement



Background

VA Strategic Plan:

- Innovative research including development and adoption of new treatments that prevent future illness and enhance Veteran outcomes
- Benefits, care and services for vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk Veteran populations

VA Health Care Priorities:

- 1) Hire faster and more competitively,
- 2) Connect Veterans to the soonest and best care,
- 3) Serve Veteran with military and environmental exposures,
- 4) Accelerate VA's journey to a High Reliability Organization,
- 5) Support Veterans' whole health, their caregivers and survivors
- 6) Prevent Veteran suicide.

VHA Strategic Research Priorities:

- 1) Increasing Veterans' access to high-quality clinical trials.
- 2) Increasing the substantial real-world impact of VA research.
- 3) Putting VA data to work for Veterans.
- 4) Actively promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within our sphere of influence.
- 5) Building community through VA research.



Impact Goals & Strategic Plan

What has been accomplished by the COIN in this study area?

What projects are currently underway that support the goal?

What is your Strategic Plan for the next five (5) years to move science forward within this Impact Goal? *This section should be the major focus of your application.*

- Advancing Knowledge
- Advancing Implementation of Existing Knowledge
- Promoting Innovation, Investigators & New Partnerships
- Improving Data & Methods
- Milestones & Metrics



Additional Areas of Contribution & Innovation & Emerging Areas

Additional Areas of Contribution

- Additional contribution areas, in which the work of one (1) or more investigators is making a substantive contribution to national efforts.
- The impact of ongoing and planned work in these areas, including investigator collaborations with other COINs and work with investigators on Investigator Initiated Research (IIR) in related areas throughout VA.
- The work of all investigators in these areas, commenting on the number of investigators, productivity, potential impact on health services research and/or VA and their contributions to research collaborations.

Innovation & Emerging Areas

- New or emerging technologies that have not yet been established but are especially promising
- New methods that offer potential for new break-throughs
- New clinical or policy areas that are becoming increasingly important
- Emerging research areas that may not be well-established or are high-risk



Strategic Partnerships, Engagement & Implementation

- **VA Partnerships**
- **Partnerships with and Service to VAMCs & VISNs**
- **Support for the National VA Research Enterprise**
- **Collaboration with other Federal Partners, National Health Organizations & Private Funders**



Key Review Area Domains

- 1. Impact Goals & Strategic Plan**
- 2. Additional Areas of Contribution, Innovation & Emerging Areas**
 - a. Additional Areas of Contribution
 - b. Innovation & Emerging Areas
- 3. Strategic Partnerships, Engagement & Implementation**
- 4. Mentoring & Career Development**
- 5. Impacts & Prior Productivity**
- 6. Leadership, Management Plan & Investigator Qualifications**
- 7. Facilities & Resources**
- 8. Multi-Institutional Applications**
- 9. Criteria for New COINs**



RFA FAQs

Question 1: Since the reorganization is creating new broad and narrow portfolios, some have asked whether these remain priority areas for HSP and for potential COINs.

Question 2: What is meant by an Impact Goal and how is it different from the current COIN research focus areas? The phrase “impact goals” suggests that each focus area now needs to be combined with a set of tangible future milestones /deliverables.

- Can you give examples?
- How should Impact Goals reflect uncertainty of impact without appearing insufficiently tangible to reviewers?

Question 3: Location for VAMC Director’s Letter -- For a 2-site COIN, should both VAMC Director’s letters be included under 08_VA_Director_Letter?



Question 4: Clarification regarding Project Funding

- a) Does “Federal, Non-VA” include funding received by COIN investigators at the academic affiliate that was not conducted in VA, and thus did not go through the local VA R&D Committee? That is, if a COIN investigator has a non-VA NIH-funded study at the academic affiliate, is it allowable to include the funding?
- b) Instructions state “all funding 2020-2022” – does that include grants funded before 2020 with one or more years of funding in 2020 or after?

Question 5: Who should be included as ‘Key Management Staff’? Does it include Core Directors, Post-doctoral Fellowship Directors, etc.?

Question 6: Clarify the definition of COIN Investigator.

Question 7: Clarification on Appendix 10 (pg 34-35).

- a) Is HSP FTE the % effort/8ths that the investigator has devoted to HSRD research? If so, what if the investigator is funded by RRD and HSRD. Are we to include all research?
- b) Is VA Appt the % effort/8ths total?
- c) Is End Date the date that their current appointment is ending?

Question 8: The RFA states LOS from operational partners are not allowed. However, an expert/shareholder forum is required. The RFA also states that partners should be on the expert/shareholder forum. Do we need to secure a LOS from relevant partners documenting their agreement to participate on this forum?