



Are you a VA investigator who is planning to submit a proposal to VA HSR&D in June 2017?

Can we help you meet requirements to include women in your study?

If so, you are invited to learn more about how to get help from:

- **The VA Women's Health Research Consortium**, for technical consultation regarding grants proposing to examine gender issues
- **The VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)**, to draw on a network of 60 sites nationally, facilitating recruitment of women Veterans in multi-site grant proposals

**With VA HSR&D's Intent to Submit deadline rapidly approaching, investigators should review the information below if they are interested in applying to use the PBRN, or interested in receiving technical consultation from the Consortium.**

Background:

In response to rapid growth of the women Veteran population, the need to broaden the VA women's health evidence base, and the need for investigators to comply with federal requirements regarding inclusion of women in research, VA HSR&D has funded the development of the VA Women's Health Research Network. The Network is composed of two partnered components, the Women's Health Research Consortium and the Women's Health Practice Based Research Network (PBRN).

Who should consider applying to use the PBRN:

Grant proposals with the following characteristics may be good candidates for the PBRN:

- *Sampling frame*: Multi-site study is needed, either to address the research question, to achieve representativeness, or to recruit sufficient numbers of women.
- *Methodology*: Study approach requires direct contact with subjects, e.g., recruitment of women patients (or their providers) from clinic settings, a clinic-based intervention, in-person interviews, focus groups, etc.
- *Topic*: Study examines women's health issues, or compares women to men. Note that the PBRN accepts studies for which gender is not a primary focus, if women will be over-sampled in sufficient numbers to permit gender comparison analyses as a sub-aim.

The PBRN is a partnership of 60 VA facilities nationally, representing over half of women Veterans who use VA.



How to apply to use the PBRN:

Send an email to the PBRN Coordinating Center with an explanation of the *type of grant* you are submitting (e.g., VA HSR&D IIR), *deadline* for your grant submission, and a few sentences *describing* your study to both of the following: [susan.frayne@va.gov](mailto:susan.frayne@va.gov) and [diane.carney@va.gov](mailto:diane.carney@va.gov). Because several steps are involved, the process should start *at least two months prior* to the

planned grant submission deadline.

**Contact [ruth.klap@va.gov](mailto:ruth.klap@va.gov) to obtain technical help through the VA Women's Health Research Consortium.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Consortium:

Elizabeth Yano PhD, Director, Consortium: [elizabeth.yano@va.gov](mailto:elizabeth.yano@va.gov)

Ruth Klap PhD, Program Manager, Consortium: [ruth.klap@va.gov](mailto:ruth.klap@va.gov)

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