

Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenge (SUD GC): Rapid-Response Request for Proposals

Overview and Aims of the Current RFP: In an attempt to control exposure to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and during the search for medical countermeasures, our state government has implemented unprecedented social distancing and stay-at-home orders. These COVID-19 related orders have resulted in the isolation of a significant proportion of our population for extended periods of time, and have led to profound changes in the delivery of care to patients with substance use disorders. In addition, the impact of these current social distancing and stay-at-home orders on substance use patterns and behavioral health symptoms of treatment engaged patients, substance-related overdose presentations to emergency departments, and opioid prescribing is not known. Given the uncertainties around the durations of the social distancing and stay-at-home orders, identifying ways to alleviate the potential negative consequences of these orders on substance use are paramount.

Request for Proposals: We are currently issuing a rapid response request for proposals for projects that directly address any of the following COVID-19 related research emphases: 1) impact on substance use patterns and behavioral health symptoms of individuals who engage in substance use and those with substance use disorders; 2) impact on substance-related overdose presentations to emergency departments; 3) impact on opioid use disorder treatment in general medical settings, such as primary care; 4) impact on opioid prescribing or naloxone distribution; and 5) consequences (positive and negative) of social distancing and stay-at-home orders on substance use.

Priority will be given to proposals that are responsive to the RFP, high in overall scientific merit, highly likely to be successful, and elucidate the impacts described above. Projects that make use of survey data or data obtained from the electronic health record are encouraged for their ability to capture patient activity since the onset of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, and to examine the effects of these efforts on subsequent treatment setting changes.

Funding must be spent within six months from the date of the award. Any unspent funds will be returned to the SUD GC index. A quarterly progress will be due after the initial award. If the project is not progressing on time, then alternative strategies for moving the project forward will need to be described. The SUD GC reserves the right to terminate funding for projects that are significantly delayed. All investigators selected to receive funding will also be expected to submit a Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project, detailing study findings, and all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded) relating to the project.

Rapid Response Research Projects: \$5000 maximum. Up to five awards will be made for projects that are responsive to the current RFP.

To apply, please submit the proposal as a single PDF (Four pages maximum, 11pt Arial font, single spaced with .05" margins to sudgc@unm.edu by Monday 5pm April 27, 2020. Please contact Brandi C. Fink, PhD (505-272-6045, bcfink@salud.unm.edu) with any questions.

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Application Format

Submit the proposal as a single PDF (Four pages maximum, 11pt Arial font, single spaced, 0.5" margins)

Project Title. *Please provide a brief title that characterizes the proposed project.*

Project Team. *Describe the members of the study team, including the Principal Investigator(s) (PI; multiple PIs are allowed for proposals), Co-Investigators (Co-I), and Collaborators. In describing the study team, please provide the following information for all team members: Name; Title and Department; total costs, and expertise relevant to the project. PI(s) must be employed by UNM.*

Project Aims. *Describe the critical need for the project and how it is responsive to the RFP and what will be studied. The specific aims/hypotheses should be described.*

Background for Proposed Project. *Describe the scientific knowledge base that supports the proposed project, and how the proposed project fits with the conceptual goals and aims of the current RFP.*

Approach. *Describe what you plan to do in order to address the project aims and how you plan to address the aims. Outline the methods you propose and how they will achieve results. Detail the anticipated outcomes and a plan for alternative approaches if results are not achieved.*

Timeline. *Provide a timeline for starting and completing the project, as well as timing of completing project-specific milestones (e.g., IRB/IACUC submission, recruitment, etc.). All projects must be completed within six months from the award date. The SUD GC reserves the right to terminate funding for projects that are significantly delayed.*

Budget and Budget Justification. *Provide itemized budget and detailed budget justification, with brief description of why each component of the itemized budget is essential to the project. Note that the budget limit is \$5000. Any unspent funds will be returned to the SUD GC index.*

Review criteria will be based on strength of the project team, scientific merit, fit with the rapid response nature of the RFP and relevance to the current COVID-19 related effects on substance use. Depending on the number of applications received, the review will be patterned after the NIH review process and reviewers may be comprised of individuals internal and external to the SUD GC.