

Research for Educational Interventions for Health Professionals: RFP Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the format for the Concept Paper?

A1. The concept paper must include the following components:

- Title
- PI and contact information
- Design and methods
- Analyses
- Any additional questions to be addressed
- Impact (see the RFP for details about types of impacts expected from proposed research)
- Timeline and budget
 - Total expected duration
 - Total expected budget with personnel budget and IT budget noted
- List of key personnel, affiliation and role in proposed project (not part of page limit)
- References (not part of page limit)
- Please include enough background information for reviewers to understand the research you propose

- Please format the concept paper with one inch margins on all sides and 11 point Arial font
- Please do not include any attachments with the concept paper. The only exception is a commitment letter to hire a non-VA PI (see question 2, below)

Q2. Must the PI be a VA investigator?

A2. a) The PI and co-PI (if applicable) must have a 5/8 VA appointment at the time of funding. Proposals from non-VA investigators will be reviewed if they include a commitment from a VAMC to hire him/her with a 5/8 appointment if funded.

Q3. Must I have a co-PI?

A3. No. You may, but need not, have a co-PI. All co-PIs must meet VA eligibility requirements.

Q4. Is the Intent to Submit Required?

A4. No. The ITS has been replaced by the Concept Paper for this RFP.

Q5. What if I want to measure practice patterns by providers...aka...must I measure patient outcomes in my proposal?

A5. Our interest is in linking education for health care professionals to veterans' outcomes. In your proposal, you should demonstrate a clear theoretical and empirical link between any intermediate (practice) outcomes and patient outcomes.

Q6. What do you mean by education researcher? Can this person be a clinician?

A6. Our interest is in the science of education as applied to health care professionals to achieve improved patient outcomes; this involves a theoretical (some use the word programmatic) approach to the science and we expect successful teams to include a researchers whose background and training includes the theories, designs, and context of the science of education. Might this person be a clinician? Sure, in some cases. There are clinicians who also have advanced degrees in education science, but this is not the same as the expert clinician (or expert HSR researcher) who has been tapped to teach and now wants to study an intervention.

Q7. What do you mean when you say that concept papers will be evaluated for evidence of collaboration with OAA, EES, OQP, and clinical or operational offices within VA?

A7. We intend for this program of research to be part of the solution to issues, problems, and challenges that OAA, EES, OQP, and other clinical or operational offices in VA identify as important to their mission and operations. We expect investigators to demonstrate their understanding of those issues as well as an understanding of the data and infrastructure available to inform the research questions that they propose. OAA, EES, and OQP will not be writing letters of support or otherwise ‘choosing’ or ‘favoring’ one project over another at this point, nor will they be joining individual teams as co-investigators or project personnel. Please keep in mind our own ‘Golden Rule’ of interest: ask not what these offices can do for you as investigators, but rather what you can do for these offices...please be aware of any unintended burden that your inquiries place on our colleagues.

Q8. Is there a limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted from a site?

A8. There is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted from a site; investigators should carefully consider feasibility and likelihood of success if they are submitting or part of more than one proposal.

Q9. I am a new (never-funded) VA investigator. How should I start?

A9. We strongly recommend that investigators who have never submitted to HSR&D link with experienced VA investigators. It is also imperative that you work with your local R&D Office to assure that your proposals meet VA requirements.

Q10. How many proposals will be funded?

A10. There is no pre-set number of proposals that we will fund, nor is there a specific amount of funding committed in advance. The single most important issue for us is the quality of the submitted proposal, and it is our goal to support all projects that reviewers consider to be meritorious.