

## **NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training (MFT) Award in Substance Use Disorders Science Dissemination Solicitation**

*Supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and sponsored by American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).*

### **DATES AND DEADLINE INFORMATION**

Deadline for receipt of application: October 30, 2022

Notification of awards: November 10, 2022

Announcement of awards: December 2, 2022

Mandatory MFT Award Training Orientation: December 16, 2022

Funding period: January 6, 2023 – December 30, 2023

AACN Doctoral Education Conference: January 17-18, 2024, The Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples, FL

Up to two awards are available in this cycle

Apply [here](#):

### **INTRODUCTION**

Accelerating the dissemination of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) particularly opioid use disorder (OUD) research findings and encouraging the implementation of evidence-based practices in health care settings is a priority for NIDA and represents the core mission of the NIDA CTN Dissemination Initiative - <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/ctn-dissemination-initiative> (also refer to: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals>). This initiative uses collaboration between expert clinicians, clinical researchers, experienced trainers, and NIDA staff to rapidly disseminate research findings from NIDA's vast scientific portfolio to a variety of stakeholders, including policymakers, program administrators and frontline prevention and treatment providers.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has partnered with NIDA CTN to fund NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Awards, a key component of the NIDA CTN Dissemination Initiative, supporting the development of expertise in SUD, especially OUD, through the completion of a mentor-supervised project focused on adoption and/or dissemination of SUD of existing treatment research and the publication of the results. The goals of the award are: 1) to promote and improve knowledge of evidence-based SUD treatment among health care providers, 2) to promote the adoption of evidence-based approaches in medical settings, 3) to promote the dissemination of substance use disorder research findings, and 4) to facilitate the professional growth and development of future clinician leaders in the area of SUD management.

### **PURPOSE OF THE AWARD**

The purpose of the award is to enhance the trainee's ability to disseminate and/or adopt evidence-based SUD treatment practices through a mentored project that will:

- Provide the trainee with experience that eventually fosters interest in either a clinical career providing evidence-based management of SUD in medical settings or potentially stimulates interest in securing a NIH career development or other grant award to pursue implementation and related research in the field of substance misuse and substance use disorder in subsequent years.
- Provide the trainee with a mentored experience in effective dissemination of existing or emerging research findings and/or the implementation/adoption of research in clinical practice. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that address or improve upon current gaps in the dissemination of existing research findings or implementation/adoption of evidence-based treatment practices. Project updates will be shared at the NIDA CTN Annual meeting. Project results will be presented at AACN 2024 Doctoral Conference in Naples Florida January 17-18. Poster presentations are acceptable. The trainee is strongly encouraged to develop a manuscript for submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Link the trainee with an experienced mentor to guide and facilitate an up to one year-long mentored experience, culminating in a project related to dissemination and/or adoption of SUD research findings.
- Provide the trainee with a mentored opportunity to learn about key areas of SUD and SUD treatment strategies through systematic literature review, attendance at conferences and workshops, and interaction with leading experts in the field.

## **MENTORSHIP**

The applicant should work in an active, progressive environment that intimately involves the applicant in different facets of SUD treatment. Award recipients should be matched with an expert faculty mentor with established SUD management and/or research track record. It is suggested that the mentor also have dissemination and implementation science expertise. The mentor is responsible for: providing a letter of support with plans for regular phone or video meetings; assisting with planning and execution of the project; and assisting with developing the poster and PowerPoint presentations. Applicants are encouraged to develop a project related to work done by their mentor. This award will provide a mentor stipend. More than one mentor may be proposed.

## **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

The applicant may be a trainee in an approved clinical residency or a clinical fellowship training program. Eligible candidates must not have a NIH research fellowship or a NIH research award or a NIH career development award.

### **This award cannot be used to conduct basic or clinical research studies or trials.**

Applications proposing non-exempt research involving human subjects that must be reviewed by an IRB under the requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations at 45 CFR part 46 **will not be eligible**. Secondary data analysis of treatment research datasets may be completed in pursuit of award goals, provided the project proposed is eligible for

Institutional Review Board (IRB) exemption and displays merit to impact on or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLES AND RECOMMENDED TOPIC AREAS**

For the Mentor-Facilitated Training Award, NIDA and AACN encourage clinically relevant applications with a focus on treatment of substance use disorders and the dissemination of research findings or facilitation of adoption of evidence-based practices in clinical settings. To this end, awardees are to develop and execute a plan designed to increase their own clinical knowledge of the management of SUD, especially OUD. They will then design and complete a project aimed at improving the dissemination and/or adoption of **existing** SUD treatment research findings.

### **Examples of appropriate activities and projects include but are not limited to:**

- Reviewing available curricula or training programs, identifying status of education on SUD, especially opioid misuse, OUD diagnosis and management in various settings, and proposing and conducting activities to improve or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices.
- Developing materials that could be used for quality improvement or integration of a vetted evidence-based approach or process, in the management of SUD, including OUD, in a medical setting and conducting activities for quality improvement or adoption.
- Identifying training gaps and research findings and/or products developed by NIDA or other federal agencies or professional associations that could bridge gaps, identifying potential partners for effective dissemination of these findings and disseminating them within existing or newly developed communication channels.
- Other activities consistent with the goals of the Dissemination Initiative to accelerate the dissemination of research findings and implementation or adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment in clinical practice.
- Analysis of de-identified data from completed clinical trials such as those found on the NIDA Data Share website (<https://datashare.nida.nih.gov/>) to inform dissemination or implementation efforts; to characterize availability of data on substance use or practice patterns; identify gaps in the provision of evidence-based practices; and/or identify needs for dissemination or implementation.

## **AWARD ADMINISTRATION, APPLICATION, AND SELECTION PROCESS**

AACN will administer the NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Award through planning, on-site coordination, and evaluation of applications. Candidates cannot have previous or simultaneous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or research funding sources. Eligible candidates may not have a training award.

Award recipients are selected through a competitive process. Applicants must submit the

following information:

- A completed application form, abstract, candidate statement, training plan, project description, timeline for the award year, budget and budget justification, literature cited, and other support. The project description will include objectives, background information, and method or proposed activities.
- A letter detailing any current and previous funding.
- The applicant's and mentor's current biosketch.
- A letter of support from a proposed mentor.
- A letter of support from their current department chair (or appropriate program director).
- A letter of support from a proposed co-mentor (if applicable).

Each application will be reviewed by researchers, program managers and/or clinicians who are involved and informed in dissemination of findings from the field of SUD. Each application will be judged primarily by the likelihood of producing dedicated, qualified clinicians and champions in the field of medicine and SUD as indicated by 1) the qualifications of the applicant, 2) the qualifications of the mentor, 3) the overall merit of the training plan and project, 4) the adequacy of the proposed budget to meet the objectives, and 5) the willingness of the institution to provide the necessary facilities and support to complete the project as described.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

MFT Individual Meeting: The trainee and the designated mentor are required to participate in a virtual meeting to discuss the expectations of the program.

Quarterly Meetings: The trainee is required to participate in 4 quarterly meetings to discuss the progress of the trainee with their perspective projects.

Progress and Final Reports: The trainee and designated mentor are required to submit a 6-month narrative progress report and a final narrative report at the end of the performance period. Failure to provide the report may negatively impact your institution's ability to apply for future awards. These reports will be submitted to AACN for subsequent submission to NIDA. In the event that the awardee's project is not completed at the end of the designated performance period, and appropriate approvals to continue have been granted, the final report must still be submitted as an outline of work done and projections for work/expenditures remaining.

Institutional Annual Meeting: Attendance is expected at the AACN 2024 Doctoral Conference in Naples Florida, January 17-18, where the awardees will present a poster abstract of their work following the completion of the award.

NIDA CTN Meeting: Trainees are also expected to attend the NIDA Clinical Trials Network Annual Steering Committee Meeting. Mentors are highly encouraged to attend. The Coordination Office will ensure that funds from each stipend are used to support air travel and hotel

accommodations. Any remaining funds will be returned to the trainee to assist with project dissemination.

Publications: All work supported in part by the NIDA Award should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels such as national meetings and peer reviewed publications. Publications will acknowledge the support of NIDA and AACN. Two reprints of each publication should be forwarded to AACN and NIDA.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Awardees will be contacted annually by the Dissemination Initiative following completion of the funding year regarding career paths, ongoing dissemination or implementation activities, leadership in promoting the adoption of evidence-based practices in clinical settings, subsequent grants/contracts obtained, and publications. Awardees will be expected to respond to this outreach.

## **PROGRAM PROMOTION**

The NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Award will be promoted and advertised through institutional marketing vehicles such as: newsletters, website links, member emails, exhibits, etc. Individuals directly involved with potential awardees, including training directors and program directors, will be contacted through listservs to encourage application to the program.

## **BUDGET**

The budget consists of up to \$10,000 for the trainee stipend and up to \$2,000 stipend for the mentor. Awards are contingent on availability of funds. Funds may be used for registration and travel to AACN 2024 Doctoral Conference in Naples Florida and the CTN Annual Meeting. Funds may also be used for educational and resource materials/courses.

## **SUPPORT FACILITIES**

The applicant must submit letters of support if the proposed project uses facilities not routinely available to or directly under the supervision of the sponsoring institution.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The applicant assumes responsibility for conducting the project and the mentor for supervising the work and advanced education of the applicant and associates. The application must show that adequate and appropriately equipped space will be available during the funding period. If a project proposes secondary data analysis or when appropriate, projects must be eligible for and obtain IRB exemption.

## **SYNOPSIS**

The NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Award in Substance Use Disorders is designed to provide opportunities to enhance knowledge of SUD and SUD treatment, to promote dissemination of substance use disorder research findings, and to promote the adoption of evidence-based approaches in clinical settings. By participating in this program, awardees gain valuable training

and mentored experience in the management of substance use and SUD, facilitate the dissemination of research findings in medical settings, and work on improving treatment of SUD. The goal is for more healthcare providers to choose to continue their education and training in the field, providing a stronger integrated health workforce, both in numbers and expertise.

## **TERMS OF THE AWARD**

**This award cannot support new, free-standing pilot research, clinical trials, or clinical research studies.** Any proposed activities such as secondary analyses or quality improvement initiatives must be eligible for IRB exemption and display merit to impact on or increase the adoption of evidence-based practices. Focus groups and informal interviews may be conducted if eligible for IRB exemption and will inform the mentored project.

Duration: Applications will be accepted for one-year of training only.

Extension of Award Period: In unusual circumstances, arrangements can be made for an extension of an award. Such a request must be made by the trainee at least 60 days before the expiration date of the award. This request must be made in writing, specify reasons for requesting the extension, and state a new expiration date. Project extensions of greater than six months will not be considered.

Change of Status of Designated Mentor or Trainee: If the trainee changes affiliations or ceases work in the field for which the award was made, the award will terminate, and the remaining balance will be returned unless the trainee and his or her new institution demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the planned project and the plan for this is approved. If the named mentor changes affiliations or ceases work in the field for which the award was made, the award will terminate, and the remaining balance will be returned unless another appropriate mentor or plan to ensure appropriate mentoring is identified and approved.

Location of work: Awards are for projects in the United States at an accredited medical school, medical center, or institution affiliated with a university teaching program. The trainee, with the direction of the mentor, will make all arrangements for conduct of the proposed projects.

Liability of AACN and National Institute on Drug Abuse: AACN and NIDA assume no financial liability if patient care responsibilities of any kind are undertaken by the NIDA trainee or mentor. The mentor, the trainee, and their respective institution(s) acknowledge that NIDA and AACN are not legally liable for the conduct of the trainee or the mentor and associate investigators.

Patent Policy: The mentor, the awardee, and their respective institution(s) acknowledge that if a patentable invention or discovery is conceived or conceived and reduced to practice by the award during the term of the award year, NIDA and AACN must be apprised of the invention and the institution's plans for protecting such invention under existing institutional patent policy. AACN will defer to institutional policies where they are in compliance with those of the Federal government. NIDA and AACN reserves the right where the institution has no patent policy, or policies not in compliance with those of the federal government, to claim rights and interests in the invention or discovery consistent with FAR Clause 52.227-11, Patent Rights- Ownership by the Contractor.

## AACN- NIDA CTN TRAINING AWARD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submission in electronic format is required.

Use English only and avoid jargon and unusual abbreviations. For terms not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used with the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses; the abbreviation may be used thereafter. Type the application, single-spaced, and stay within the margin limitations indicated on the forms and continuation pages. The type must be clear and readily legible, no smaller than 15 characters per inch. (If in doubt, use 12 pt. size font.)

Do **not** submit an incomplete application. **An application will be considered incomplete if it is illegible, if it fails to follow instructions, or if the material presented is insufficient to permit an adequate review.** Unless specifically required by these instructions do **not** send supplementary material.

The application consists of the following sections:

### 1. LETTER OF INTENT (limit 1 page)

The Applicant will be the Principal Investigator (PI) of the proposed project. A letter signed by the Applicant (PI) and Mentor should accompany the application. Choose a project title that is descriptive and specifically appropriate, rather than general. In addition to your Mentor, list and any associate investigators. Address the following:

- a. your interest in the topic and this project
- b. your perception of your role in the project
- c. any additional pertinent experience or interests you wish the committee to consider

### 2. ABSTRACT

Provide a brief summary of the project proposal, and any associated activities (e.g., coursework, other technical training). Include rationale, specific aims, and significance.

### 3. PROJECT PROTOCOL (limit 12 pages) NIH form Continuation Format Page example available at [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#)

Please use the following subheadings:

#### Significance

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.

- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.

Specific Aims

- State concisely the goals of the proposed project, including the impact that the results of the proposed project will exert on the field(s) involved.
- List succinctly the specific objectives of the project proposed, (e.g., create a novel curriculum, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, or address a critical barrier to progress in the field).
- Specific aims are limited to one page.

Innovation

- Explain how the application addresses and seeks to shift current knowledge bases or treatment practices
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, dissemination approaches, curricula or instrumentation to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing practices.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or curricula that will improve the field.

Approach

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and evaluation to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Preliminary Studies. Include information on Preliminary Studies and how they will inform the proposed dissemination project. Discuss the PD/PI's preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application.

**4. DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING PLAN (limit: 3 pages)**

Describe how the award year will be structured. Outline major goals and objectives and indicate how they will be achieved. Provide a training plan, including the structure and details of the relationship between the applicant and mentor, and how the applicant and mentor will work together to achieve the goals of the award year. Indicate how the mentor will monitor the progress of the trainee.

**5. ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS (limit 1 page)**



In addition to the PI, list the mentor and each associate investigator or consultant. Include a brief description of how and to what extent each will be involved in the proposed project.

6. **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES** NIH Biographical Sketch Format Page available at [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#)

Information is requested for the applicant, mentor and any associate investigators who will be involved with the projects. The 5-page NIH format has been adopted.

7. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT** NIH Resources format Page available at [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#)

Describe the facilities available for grant training. If computer access or statistical support is available, it should be described in this section.

8. **BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION** NIH Form Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period available at [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#)

Indicate how the money will be spent. Justify all major expenditures.

9. **OTHER SUPPORT** NIH form Continuation Format Page available at [www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#)

List all current and pending intramural and extramural research funding for the applicant, mentor and co-investigators. For each item indicate the grant identification number, grant type, PI, funding source, annual direct costs, funding period, percent effort, grant title, and brief description of project. For all items indicate whether there is any scientific or budgetary overlap with the current proposal

10. **ETHICS NIH (If Applicable)** Information can be found at:

<https://ethics.od.nih.gov/topicshttps://www.nih.gov/health-information/nih-clinical-research-trials-you/guiding-principles-ethical-research>

## 11. LITERATURE CITED

## 12. APPENDIX

Include letters of support from the mentor, department chairs and associate investigators (required). No page numbering is necessary for Appendix. The appendix can include:

- Up to 5 publications, manuscripts (*accepted* for publication), abstracts, patents, or other printed materials directly relevant to this project. *Do not include manuscripts submitted for publication.*

- **Publications in press:** Include only a publication list with a link to the publicly available on-line journal article or the NIH PubMed Central (PMC) submission identification number. Do not include the entire article.
- **Manuscripts accepted for publication but not yet published:** The entire article should be submitted and may be stapled.
- **Manuscripts published but an online journal link is not available:** The entire article should be submitted and may be stapled.
- **Surveys, questionnaires, data collection instruments, clinical protocols, and informed consent documents.**
- **No photographs or color images may be included in the Appendix that are not also represented within the Project Plan.**

Do not use the appendix to circumvent page limitations for project plans. Do not include methods, protocols or figures that should be incorporated within the project description.

### **13. SIGNED STATEMENT OF CONDITIONS**

Applicant (*Last, first, middle*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor (*Last, first, middle*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_