

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 by the Sponsoring Organization

DATES AND DEADLINE INFORMATION

Deadline for receipt of application: November 30, 2023

Notification of award: December 29, 2023

Mandatory MFT Award Training Orientation: January 24, 2024

Funding period: January 5, 2024 – December 30, 2024

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 the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and represents the core mission of the [NIDA Clinical Trials Network Dissemination Initiative](#) (NIDA CTN DI).

The NIDA CTN DI 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 collaborators, including policymakers, program administrators, and frontline prevention and treatment providers.

The Sponsoring Organization has partnered with NIDA CTN to administer **NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Awards**, a key component of the NIDA CTN DI that supports the development of expertise in SUD, especially OUD, among early career investigators through the completion of a mentor-supervised project.

The goals of the award are: 1) to promote the dissemination of SUD research findings, thereby improving knowledge and ultimately the utilization of evidence-based SUD treatment among health care providers, 2) and to facilitate the professional growth and development of future clinician leaders in SUD management.

The budget consists of up to \$10,000 for the awardee stipend, \$2,000 for the mentor stipend, and \$3,000 for an administration stipend. Funds may also be used for educational and resource materials/courses and travel to the Sponsoring Organization Annual Conference and the NIDA CTN Annual Steering Committee Meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The award will:

- Engage the awardee in a one-year mentored experience that provides an opportunity to learn about key areas of SUD and SUD treatment strategies and the effective dissemination of existing research findings. The year-long experience culminates in the completion of an educational/quality improvement/dissemination project that addresses educational or knowledge gaps that the awardee identifies.
- Foster interest in either a clinical career providing evidence-based management of SUD in medical settings or pursuing their own research interests in the field.

Awardee projects will be shared at group virtual meetings as well as at the annual NIDA CTN Steering Committee meeting. The awardee is strongly encouraged to develop a manuscript of their project for submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal after completion of the MFT year.

MENTORSHIP

The mentor should have experience in dissemination and implementation science or clinical treatment and/or research experience in the field of substance use disorders. The mentor is responsible for:

- Providing a letter of support of the awardee, including plans for regular phone or video meetings over the course of the award year;
- Assisting with planning and execution of the awardee's project;
- Assisting with developing a poster and PowerPoint presentations. Awardees are encouraged to develop a project related to work done by their mentor. A mentor stipend will be provided, and 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 National Institutes of Health (NIH) research fellowship, an NIH research award, or a NIH career development award.

PROJECT EXAMPLES AND RECOMMENDED TOPIC AREAS

For the Mentor-Facilitated Training Award, NIDA and the Sponsoring Organization encourage clinically relevant applications with a focus on treatment of SUDs and the dissemination of research findings of evidence-based practices into clinical settings. To this end, awardees will 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 the dissemination of existing SUD treatment research findings.

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

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

- Identify curriculum training gaps in SUD and choose research findings and/or products developed by NIDA or other professional associations that could bridge such gaps. Disseminate the identified information through a series of lectures, seminars, etc.
- Develop materials that could be used for quality improvement or integration of an evidence-based approach or process in the management of SUD in a medical setting and conduct activities for quality improvement.
- Analyze de-identified data from completed clinical trials such as those found on the [NIDA Data Share website](#) to inform dissemination efforts; characterize the availability of data on substance use or practice patterns; identify gaps in the provision of evidence-based practices; and identify needs for dissemination.
- Other activities consistent with the goals of the Dissemination Initiative to accelerate the

dissemination of research findings into clinical practice.

Examples of recent dissemination projects created by awardees are available on request.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

MFT Individual Meeting: The awardee and mentor(s) will participate in a virtual meeting to discuss the expectations of the program.

Check-In Meetings: Awardees are required to participate in three virtual group check-in meetings to discuss the progress of their dissemination projects.

Progress and Final Reports: The awardee and mentor(s) 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 the Sponsoring Organization for subsequent submission to NIDA. If 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 Sponsoring Organization's annual meeting, where the awardees will present a poster abstract of their work following the completion of the award.

NIDA CTN Steering Committee Meeting: The awardee is expected to attend the NIDA CTN Steering Committee Meeting. Mentors are also encouraged to attend. The Coordination Office will ensure that funds from each stipend are used to support air travel and hotel accommodation. Any remaining funds will be returned to the applicant to assist with project dissemination.

Publications: Publications will acknowledge the support of NIDA and the Sponsoring Organization. All work supported by the NIDA CTN Mentor-Facilitated Training Award should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels such as national meetings and peer-reviewed publications. Two reprints of each publication should be forwarded to the Sponsoring Organization for subsequent submission to NIDA.

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. Sponsoring Organizations are encouraged to use different marketing tools to reach applicants.

BUDGET

An FAQ sheet for guidance on the appropriate use of the stipend is attached.

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 advancing the education of the applicant and associates. The application must show that adequate and appropriately equipped space will be available during the funding period.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION, APPLICATION, AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Sponsoring Organization will administer the NIDA CTN Mentor-Facilitated Training Award through planning, on-site coordination, and evaluation of applications. Candidates cannot have previous or simultaneous funding from NIH or research funding sources. Eligible candidates may not have received a previous training award (NIH research fellowship or a NIH research career development award).

Award recipients are selected through a competitive process. **Online applications include the following information and may be submitted through this link:**

<https://ctnmftapplications.org/>.

- An 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 biographical sketch (biosketch).
- A letter of support from the 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 SUD medicine 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.

THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION- NIDA CTN TRAINING AWARD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submission in electronic format is required through <https://ctnmftapplications.org/>.

Use English only and avoid jargon and 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.

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. 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.

2. CANDIDATE STATEMENT

The applicant will be the principal investigator (PI) of the proposed project. Choose a project title that is descriptive and specific. Address the following:

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

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background Information

- 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.

Objectives

State concisely the objectives 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).

Proposed Methods or Activities

- 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.

4. PROJECT PROTOCOL

Outline major goals and objectives and indicate how they will be achieved.

5. TIMELINE FOR THE AWARD YEAR

Specify the expected milestones and activities for each month throughout the award year. Describe how you and your mentor would work together to meet the goals of your project and how your mentor would monitor your progress.

6. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Information is requested for the applicant, mentor and any associate investigators who will be involved with the projects.

7. OTHER SUPPORT

If applicable, provide a list of other associates or consultants and how they will contribute to your project. Tell us about facilities and support available to you through your institution.

8. BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

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

9. LITERATURE CITED

10. LETTER DETAILING FUNDING HISTORY

Explain any current or previous funding received.

11. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Include letters of support from the mentor, department chairs and associates who will be involved.

TERMS OF THE AWARD

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.

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 participation.

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 applicant 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 Applicant: If the applicant 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 applicant and their new institution demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the planned project and receive approval to continue. 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 awardee, with the direction of the mentor, will make all arrangements for conducting the proposed projects.

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

Patent Policy: The mentor, the applicant, 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 sponsoring organization must be apprised of the invention and the institution's plans for protecting such invention under existing institutional patent policy. The sponsoring organization defers to institutional policies where they follow those of the federal government. NIDA and the sponsoring organizations 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.