

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC-RELATED FOOD AND HOUSING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES IN HEALTH DISPARITY POPULATIONS (R01 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)

APPLICANT WEBINAR RFA-NR-22-001

February 23, 2022



National Institute
of Nursing Research



AGENDA

- Introductions
- Webinar logistics
- Background information
- Overview of Request for Applications
 - Purpose and Scope
 - Application Information and Key Dates
- Scientific Review Process and Review Criteria
- Specific Research Priorities
- Questions and Answers

WEBINAR PRESENTERS

Dionne Godette-Greer, PhD
National Institute of Nursing Research

Karen Huss, RN, PhD
National Institute of Nursing Research

Lois Tully, PhD
National Institute of Nursing Research

Elia Ortenberg, PhD
Center for Scientific Review

Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, RDN, LDN
Office of Disease Prevention

Crystal Barksdale, PhD, MPH
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Jennifer Humensky, PhD
National Institute of Mental Health

Julia Beth Zur, PhD
National Institute on Drug Abuse

LOGISTICS AND Q&A PROCEDURES

- Attendees will be muted
- Questions were submitted by email prior to webinar
 - Additional questions may be submitted after webinar to:
 - Scientific/Research Contacts listed in RFA
 - Peer Review Contacts listed in RFA
 - Financial/Grants Management Contacts listed in RFA or
 - **NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov**
- Registered participants will receive an email with the public hyperlink to the slides and frequently asked questions when they are available.

BACKGROUND: SARS-COV-2/COVID-19

- A health, social, behavioral, and economic crisis
- Long-term effects on health and well-being, beyond enormous morbidity and mortality
- Of concern is impact of the pandemic on populations who experience health disparities
- Two major factors impacted by the pandemic:
 - food/nutrition security
 - housing security
- Well known social determinants of health for adults and children

BACKGROUND: FOOD INSECURITY

- Adults in households with food insecurity more likely to have chronic health conditions (diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, depression) and increased risk of mortality
- Children who are food insecure are more likely to:
 - Report fair or poor health compared to those who are food secure
 - Experience adverse behavioral and academic outcomes
- COVID-19 has disrupted food access and negatively impacted food security, which are associated with numerous adverse health outcomes
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall prevalence of food insecurity rose from 11% of U.S. households to 18-35% of U.S. households

BACKGROUND: HOUSING INSECURITY

- COVID-19 increased risk of housing insecurity for significant portion of the population
- Housing insecurity key in spread of COVID-19
- Transmission associated with living in congregate settings and crowded conditions making it difficult for people to distance when infected
- Risk of outbreaks high in homeless shelters and long-term care facilities
- Racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately represented

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS - RELEASED JANUARY 25, 2022

- **Purpose:** to identify and evaluate ongoing and long-term impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on governmental (local, state, tribal, federal) policy and programmatic actions that address:
 - Food/nutrition security
 - Housing security
- Applications are requested to examine how these food/nutrition and housing policies and programs aimed at lessening effects of pandemic impacted health and health equity in individuals, families, and communities from health disparity populations

SCOPE OF RESEARCH

- Natural experiments include those where an exposure or change is not directly manipulated by the researcher, and where comparable control data are available and confounding variables can be limited through study design, sample selection, and statistical analysis.
- Use of a natural experiment approach to:
 - Examine how food and housing policies and programs aimed to lessen impact of pandemic affected health and health equity
 - Understand pathways of these effects
 - Describe long-term consequences
- Other experimental designs are allowable if the study fits within the scope of the RFA.

PLAN FOR ENHANCING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES (PEDP)

PEDP Plan

- **Goal:** Spark cultural change necessary to address inequities and systemic biases in biomedical research
- **Goal:** Advance scientific innovation and excellence through inclusion of all voices

Evaluation of PEDP

- Engagement with diverse institutions & organizations
- Partnerships to enhance geographic and regional diversity
- Measure PEDP progress and benchmarks
- Use project infrastructure to support career enhancing research for diverse, junior, early, mid-career investigators

PLAN FOR ENHANCING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES (PEDP)

PEDP Plan

- Committed to fostering diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility in the research community
- Compose teams richly diverse in perspectives, backgrounds, and academic disciplines, and provide full opportunity and participation to individuals and groups

Evaluation of PEDP

- Involve diverse students, postdocs, co-investigators
- Transdisciplinary collaborations with diverse perspectives to address science
- Publication plan enumerating papers and lead authorship
- Outreach and engagement to enhance recruitment of diverse groups as research participants

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application	RFA-NR-22-001
R01 (Clinical Trial Optional)	✓
Number of awards	6-8 awards
Application budget limits	Requests of \geq \$500,000/year encouraged to discuss w/scientific program officer of relevant Institute
Maximum project period	Maximum project period 5 years. Average NIH grant ~4 years.
Foreign institutions - non-domestic entities eligible?	✗
Non-domestic (non-US) components of US organizations eligible to apply?	✗
Are foreign components allowed?	✓

KEY DATES

Key Dates

Posted Date

January 25, 2022

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)

March 07, 2022

Letter of Intent Due Date(s)

March 07, 2022

Application Due Dates			Review and Award Cycles		
New	Renewal / Resubmission / Revision (as allowed)	AIDS	Scientific Merit Review	Advisory Council Review	Earliest Start Date
April 07, 2022	Not Applicable	April 07, 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022

All applications are due by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Expiration Date

April 08, 2022

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PROCESS

OVERVIEW

Elia Ortenberg, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Email: elia.ortenberg@nih.gov

Who? [Special emphasis review panel](#) of experts from the extramural community will review applications submitted under this RFA.

What? Reviewers will evaluate according to guidelines listed in [Section V of RFA: General, specific, and additional review criteria](#).

When? Level I peer review – July.
Level II Advisory Council review – August.

Written critiques (summary statement) will be provided to all applicants at the end of Level I review (within 30 days after the review meeting).

Where? Center for Scientific Review will oversee Level I review (see [applicant resources](#)).



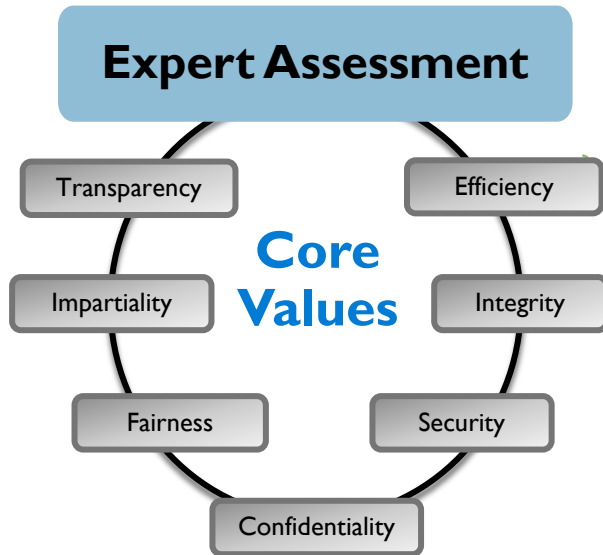
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of Nursing Research

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PROCESS

TWO-TIERED REVIEW SYSTEM

Elia Ortenberg, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Email: elia.ortenberg@nih.gov

PEER REVIEW PRINCIPLES



Level 1 Review:
Peer Review: Evaluation of scientific/technical Merit

Level 2 Review:
Council Review: Funding decisions based on IC priorities

Scientific Review Group (Special Emphasis Panel)

Non-federal scientists & experts will be assembled for the review of applications submitted under this RFA.

Council Review NIH Institute/Center

Appointed members of scientific community and public representatives will discuss Level 1 review outcomes.

RFA-SPECIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA

Elia Ortenberg, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Email: elia.ortenberg@nih.gov

Reviewers will consider the core criteria *and* the [Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives \(PEDP\)](#) within each core criteria and overall impact.

Significance

To what extent do the efforts described in the PEDP further the **significance** of the project?

Investigator(s)

To what extent will the efforts described in the PEDP strengthen and enhance the **expertise** required for the project?

Innovation

To what extent will the efforts described in the PEDP meaningfully contribute to **innovation**?

Approach

Are the **timeline and milestones** associated with the PEDP well-developed and feasible?

Environment

To what extent will features of the **environment** described in the PEDP (e.g., collaborative arrangements, geographic diversity, institutional support) contribute to the success of the project?

Overall Impact

Assessment of core + additional review criteria, reflecting the likelihood of the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the field.

ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Elia Ortenberg, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Email: elia.ortenberg@nih.gov

SCORE-DRIVING

- **Study Timeline** (required for clinical trials)
- **Protection for Human Subjects**
- **Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan**
- **Vertebrate Animals**
- **Biohazards**

Evaluated, but not scored individually.

Strengths/weaknesses contribute to assessment of Overall Impact.

NON-SCORE-DRIVING

- **Select Agent Research**
- **Resource Sharing Plan**
- **Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources**
- **Budget & Period of Support**

Comments provided, but not considered in scoring.

Do not contribute to Overall Impact.

SPECIFIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR INSTITUTES



NINR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Dionne Godette-Greer, PhD
Scientific Contact
Email: dionne.godette@nih.gov

- Applicants can propose research that studies one or more policies and programs and their combined impacts on child and/or adult health. Examples of topics of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - Studies examining changes in food/nutrition insecurity reported by individuals and families following implementation of COVID-19 policies and programs; examination of the impact of such policies and programs on the health of individuals, including diet-related diseases, both in those newly experiencing food/nutrition insecurity and those with longer term experience (i.e., started pre-pandemic)
 - Studies of the health impacts of housing-related COVID-19 era policies and programs aimed at mitigating risk
 - Studies embedded in existing research cohorts that take advantage of their rich longitudinal data. Such studies should take care to clearly address measurement of specific policy exposures related to housing or food insecurity in the cohort and address health equity
 - Pandemic-related factors that hinder or enhance the successful implementation of COVID-19 food/nutrition security policies and programs (e.g., disrupted supply chains, depleted food pantries, empty store shelves, fear of close proximity to other shoppers) and the resulting impact on health and health equity

NINR RESEARCH PRIORITIES (CONT'D)

Dionne Godette-Greer, PhD
Scientific Contact
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- Existing individual, family, and/or community-level barriers that reduced utilization of benefits or provisions from COVID-19 food/nutrition security policies and programs – and the impact on health outcomes
- Long-term impact of COVID-19 food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs for reducing risk and severity of chronic illnesses, symptoms of stress, substance misuse, and/or mental health outcomes that are experienced as a result of pandemic-related food/nutrition and housing insecurity
- Studies of the impact from ending or de-implementation of COVID-19 food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs on health and health equity
- Natural experiments taking advantage of local, state, or regional variations in policies, programs, economic circumstances, and other exogenous factors to identify causal factors
- Studies of interactions between COVID-19 food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs and other government policies and programs in place prior to the onset of the pandemic

NIDA RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Julia Zur, PhD
Scientific Contact
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- Topics of Interest
 - Federal, state, or local government programs and policies to address housing or food insecurity that have had an effect on:
 - Prevalence of substance misuse and substance use disorder
 - Overdose rates
 - Access to substance use disorder treatment
 - Retention in substance use disorder treatment
 - Access to and use of harm reduction services
- Approaches
 - All quasi-experimental designs or other methods identified in the RFA are acceptable
 - Applications that examine the effects of policies and/or programs should consider the feasibility and costs of expansion and extension
 - Inclusion of stakeholder perspectives, including the perspective of individual recipients of services, is encouraged
- Populations of interest include all populations identified in the RFA

NIMH RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Jennifer Humensky, PhD

Scientific Contact

Email: Jennifer.humensky@nih.gov

- NIMH is interested in research that supports the NIMH Strategic Plan for Research
- Examinations of the downstream impact of policies and programs designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security and/or housing security/stability for health disparity populations on mental health outcomes such as (but not limited to):
 - Preventive care
 - Engagement with and adherence to mental health treatment
 - Other self-management behaviors
 - Quality of mental health care received
 - Mental health outcomes (e.g., suicidal behavior, depression, anxiety)
- NIMH is not supporting clinical trials for this RFA
- NIMH encourages research projects that take into account the perspectives of relevant stakeholders
- Where possible, NIMH encourages capitalizing on existing infrastructure

NIMHD RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Crystal L. Barksdale, PhD, MPH
Scientific Contact
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- The mission of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) is to lead scientific research to improve minority health and reduce health disparities. Populations that experience health disparities include African Americans/Blacks, Hispanic/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations.
- NIMHD is interested in and supports the study of multiple aspects of minority health and health disparities, focusing on the full continuum of causes of health disparities and the interrelation of these causes (e.g., biological, clinical, systems-level).
- NIMHD encourages projects that encompass multiple domains of influence (e.g., behavioral, environmental) and multiple levels of influence (e.g., interpersonal, community, societal) to understand and address health disparities and social determinants (see the [NIMHD Research Framework](#) for more information).
- Consistent with the Scope and Objectives of the RFA, NIMHD projects should include human participants and examine program and policy impacts on health disparities and health outcomes.

ODP RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, RDN, LDN
Scientific Contact
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■ The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP):

- Is responsible for assessing, facilitating, and stimulating research in disease prevention and contributes to improving Public Health by Increasing the Scope, Quality, Dissemination and Impact of Prevention Research.
- Provides co-funding support for research that has strong implications for disease prevention, advancing health equity that includes innovative and appropriate design, measurement, and analysis methods.
- Is interested in projects that propose evaluation of policy and programs that address food/nutrition security and housing security and the resulting effects on health outcomes and health disparities.
- Is interested in applications that propose to study the impact of Covid-19 related food and housing mitigation strategies on long term health effects of Covid-19.
- ODP does not award grants. Applications submitted to this RFA will be assigned to one of the four participating institutes.
- To see the ODP prevention research focus areas, see the ODP Strategic Plan FY2019-2023.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

CONTACT:
NINRFOAFAQS@MAIL.NIH.GOV



THANK YOU