Innovations in Recovery Through Infrastructure Support (IRIS)Recovery Research Program (RRP)

REQUEST FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS
Spring 2022

Funding for Recovery Support Research in Populations Receiving Services for Opioid Use

IRIS is a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded project based at University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work and aimed at enhancing the measurement of recovery supports for individuals with opioid use. The aim of the IRIS Recovery Research Program (RRP) is to generate research on a variety of recovery support services designed to enhance treatment outcomes and quality of care for individuals with opioid use. For more information about IRIS' values and aims, please go to: https://www.iris.ssw.umaryland.edu/about

The RRP is seeking applications for pilot research projects focused on measuring recovery supports using new or existing program data. Projects should be achievable within an 18-month period, including data analysis and dissemination of results. We anticipate funding up to seven projects with a $24,990 maximum budget per applicant.

Programs are encouraged to work with IRIS academic partners who can provide technical assistance with proposal development and may be able to assist with some aspects of project implementation. Interprofessional and cross-program collaboration is encouraged, including with academic partners outside of IRIS. IRIS will hold two information sessions via Zoom to discuss the RFA and funding opportunity:

January 25, 2022: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
February 2, 2022: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/2110984433?pwd=UDlSLzY1YnVNSzRKOEgrNnE3SGxUdz09

Funding Priority
The RRP is seeking applications for pilot research projects focused on answering important questions related to measuring treatment outcomes, enhancing care coordination, examining barriers to treatment, or exploring specific factors that contribute to recovery for individuals with opioid use. Priority areas include projects aimed at reducing opioid overdose, projects that study the impact of recovery housing alone or in combination with formal treatment, and harm reduction strategies to reduce opioid use and related risk behaviors, such as intravenous drug use.

<u>Intent to Apply</u>
Potential applicants are asked to inform RRP faculty of the intent to apply for funding via email to mtuten@ssw.umaryland.edu and JUNICK@ssw.umaryland.edu by **February 9, 2022**.

Example RRP proposals include, but are not limited to, projects designed to:
- better understand a client population through analysis of existing demographic and treatment related measures;
- expand access to naloxone for individuals at risk of opioid overdose;
- improve program capacity to deliver and measure recovery support services, such as peer-support services, 12-step groups in and/or out of treatment, faith-based services, family-involvement, use of motivational incentives, drug-court involvement, vocational training for individuals with opioid use;
- remove barriers (i.e., transportation, child-care, family support, financial/insurance issues, treatment engagement, stigma) to accessing medication-based treatment (MBT) and/or implement interventions to enhance receipt of MBT;
- identify and address factors that impede or facilitate workforce participation among individuals with opioid use;
- improve service delivery for individuals with opioid use through interprofessional and interagency collaborations, cross-training, and care coordination across multiple systems of care;
- integrate and synthesize existing data systems to improve identification of substance use trends, opioid use related service needs, and measurement of treatment outcomes;
- enhance program ability to deliver peer-based services and measure associated patient satisfaction and/or outcomes;
- improve workforce, patient, and family-member knowledge of the role of MBT in the treatment of opioid use through specialized training and measurement of pre-and-post training knowledge assessment;
- development and implementation of intake and follow-up measurement protocols using standardized assessments to assess patient progress during and following treatment for opioid use;
- improve patient continuing care including transitions among levels of care, and care coordination among behavioral health service providers, facilities and programs;
- increase patient use of treatments or services that reduce the need for high-cost service utilization (i.e., emergency room visits, inpatient psychiatric treatment, inpatient detoxification services);
- evaluate the impact of state or federal policies on treatment related services or outcomes;
- improve access to and receipt of MBT in recovery housing

RRP Proposal Submission Guidelines

<u>Eligible Applicants</u>
Programs that provide substance use-related services to individuals with opioid use or that work with organizations that provide opioid use related services are eligible to apply for funding. Individuals are not eligible for this funding mechanism.
<u>Grant Personnel</u>
Grant personnel should have the skills and expertise to successfully carry out the aims of the proposed project. Programs are encouraged to collaborate with academic partners during proposal development and implementation.

The submission deadline for all proposals is **March 22, 2022.** We anticipate that funding for awarded projects will begin as early as **July 1, 2022.**

Any questions regarding applicant or proposal eligibility can be directed to: mtuten@ssw.umaryland.edu and JUNICK@ssw.umaryland.edu

Duration of Project
Projects should be completed within 18 months, including data analysis and dissemination of results.

Proposal Requirements
Proposals should be formatted using 12-point font and 1" margins and should strictly adhere to the following page limitations and required elements:

Cover Page (1 page)
Title of Project
Name of primary researcher, role on project

Proposed Research (maximum 5 pages)
The proposed research should include a description of the problem and significance, specific aims, and project timeline and impact as described below.

Problem and Significance
Problem to be addressed and significance of addressing the problem as it relates to improving services or outcomes for individuals with opioid use, improving the workforce delivering services to individuals with opioid use, or otherwise enhancing the capacity of the recovery support system to effectively serve the population.

Specific Aims
Proposals should describe the aims of the project, the way the research will be conducted and how the data collected will be analyzed. Proposals should include a description of how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.

Project Timeline and Impact
Proposals should describe the timeline for implementing the project, including institutional review board (IRB) approval, and main tasks to be accomplished within the 18-month grant period (12 months for project and remaining 6 months for data analysis and dissemination. Please also describe plans for project sustainability.

Participant Recruitment
Please specify whether your project will recruit participants. For projects that will recruit participants, please provide the following information per National Institutes of Health (NIH) reporting requirements:

- Anticipated sample size (total number of participants expected to participate in the project)
- Demographic description of sample population, including: mean age, racial ethnic group (% White, African American, Hispanic, and Other which includes Asian American Pacific Islander, Native American), and gender (% male, female, and other which includes transgender and non-binary).

Projects will need IRB approval or documentation of IRB waiver prior to initiation.

Budget
A concise budget (not to exceed one half a page) should be provided that includes the total amount of funds being requested (maximum funding of $24,990 per applicant), personnel salaries, project supplies and equipment, and any patient compensation as applicable. The budget should include a brief description of how the funds will be used.

Additional Application Documents
Curriculum vitae, resume, or biosketch for all key personnel along with a brief description of the role on project for all key personnel.

Additional Applicant Information
<u>Review</u>: Proposals will be evaluated by a committee consisting of members of the IRIS leadership committee and community representatives with the appropriate expertise. Reviews may be solicited from specific experts on an ad hoc basis. Proposals will be reviewed for: 1) compatibility of project with the aims of IRIS; 2) potential for direct and timely impact on the problem(s) identified and, 3) potential for sustainability, including project development, future collaborations and additional funding; and 4) interprofessional and/or interagency collaboration.
<u>Expectations</u>

<u>Funded projects</u>: Award recipients will provide a progress update at 6, 12, and 18 months, post-funding.

<u>Expenses Not Allowed</u>: The following expenses are not allowed: alterations or renovations; purchase of office furniture; purchase or binding of periodicals and books; dues and memberships in scientific societies, travel not directly related to the project. Indirect costs are not allowable, however, project administration may be embedded into the program budget.

Where to Submit:

All applications should be submitted electronically by e-mail as a single pdf to:
mtuten@ssw.umaryland.edu