Grant Funding Opportunity FAQs

One of the strategic goals of the WPHRN is to increase the number of public health services and systems research (PHSSR) projects conducted (WPHRN, 2013). Because funding is often required in order to conduct such projects, one of the benefits of the WPHRN is providing members with frequent updates about research project grant funding opportunities. The purpose of this FAQ sheet is to explain:
- How to use the WPHRN Grant Funding Opportunities Updates,
- Eligibility and partnering for research funding,
- The WPHRN project endorsement procedure, and
- WPHRN assistance available to WPHRN members interested in obtaining PHSSR funding.

Navigating WPHRN Grant Funding Opportunities Update

The WPHRN emails its members frequent updates about potential funding opportunities. This section provides a brief explanation of the terms used in the WPHRN Grant Funding Opportunities Updates.

Grant Funding Opportunities Updates

Funding Number: This is the number provided by the funder to distinguish one funding opportunity from another. This number can be helpful when looking up additional information about the grant on sites such as grants.gov. Not all grants have assigned funding numbers.

Agency: This is the agency that is sponsoring the opportunity to apply for funding. Common funders include:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

Open: This is the date when the grant is open for submissions. Often this date coincides with when the grant was posted on a funding site such as grants.gov. Sometimes only a date when the grant was posted is provided. In those cases, the posted date is listed in the "open" column. These dates are good indicators as to how long a funding opportunity has been available.

Exp.: This is when a grant "expires." This date reflects when the opportunity is over. Standard dates apply refers to the standard due dates for completing applications. These dates are different depending on the type of grant (e.g. R01, R01, R21).

Type: Grants fund many different types of programs and projects. WPHRN focuses on grants that fund research projects. Click here for an explanation of the different types of grants.

Yellow Highlighted Fields: Highlighted fields within the Grant Funding Opportunities Updates call attention to specific grants that have approaching deadlines.

Who can apply for research project funding?

Grant postings indicate the types of agencies/organizations that are eligible to apply for funding.

Partnering when applying for research project funding

In some circumstances, it may be advantageous for agencies/organizations to apply in partnership with other organizations, such as the WPHRN for research project funding. When applying for funding, a principal investigator and lead agency are needed. The principal investigator is someone who has the qualifications needed to conduct a research study and often has access to an institutional review board. A lead agency will have the capacity to fiscally manage the funding that is received. For example, researchers often collaborate with practice partners to help with idea generation, provide letters of support, and be part of a study advisory team. Health departments will often apply in partnership for funding with a researcher if they do not have a staff member that is qualified to lead a research study. There are many different partnership arrangements that can occur when applying for funding.

How do proposals receive WPHRN endorsement?

Proposals are screened by WPHRN staff and Co-Chairs. The WPHRN Steering Committee then reviews and votes on proposals or funded research projects to decide if the network will provide project endorsement and/or will make network resources available. Guidelines are used during the decision making process. Those interested in submitting a project for network endorsement are highly encouraged to review the WPHRN guidelines and WPHRN Priority Research Questions.

How can WPHRN assist public health practitioners and researchers that are interested in obtaining PHSSR funding?

The purpose of WPHRN is to link public health practitioners and researchers to answer questions and disseminate discoveries that can be applied to improve practice and population health. Because WPHRN has limited resources, assistance available from WPHRN staff for proposal preparation is limited to:

- Providing WPHRN members with current funding information,
- Facilitating connections between public health practitioners and researchers,
- Supporting and endorsing research proposals, and
- Providing information about additional resources.

Investigators seeking to provide financial support to the WPHRN in their grant proposals for additional research project related support or services should contact the Research Program Manager or WPHRN Co-Directors during the proposal-writing phase to discuss their project needs.

For more information about WPHRN visit:
www.wphrn.org

Or contact:
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