

RECOVERY RESEARCH ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

This pilot study mechanism is funded by an R24 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (1R24DA057659-01), and [the Helping to End Addiction Long-term® Initiative](#) (or NIH HEAL Initiative®).

The goal of this funding mechanism is to support pilot recovery science projects that will accelerate the transition from discoveries to active and effective peer and community-based recovery support programs, advance the field of recovery science, and cultivate an emerging recovery science workforce.

This is a general call for pilot studies that may collect preliminary data or conduct preliminary secondary analyses on existing recovery support data, in preparation for submission to NIH and/or other extramural funding sources. Hypothesis-driven research is encouraged but not required.

Applications from the following areas of research* are strongly encouraged but not required:

- Role of social determinants of health/recovery on impact of peer support
- Availability and effectiveness of peer support services in different environments/settings
- The role of race, ethnicity, and gender identity in peer support services effectiveness
- Wellbeing and health of the peer support workforce
- Best practices and strategies for helping peer staff assist individuals using non-abstinent recovery pathways.
- Identifying key metrics and outcomes for the evaluation of peer recovery support services
- Peer support staff biases towards multiple pathways of recovery
- Peer support career and professional development pathways and compensation analysis of peer workers
- Integration and evaluation of peer recovery support and peer harm reduction services and programs
- Standardized data collection among peer support services
- Hispanic/Latinx/Latine populations and other underserved populations (e.g., low SES)

**These research priorities were first identified by the [External Advisory Board](#) of PRIN. The board members are recovery science experts, peer recovery experts, and addiction scientists. They were asked to think and rank (from least to most important) topics that should be investigated in the field of recovery science. If you'd like to know more about how the recovery experts ranked these priorities, please take a look at [this document](#).*

ELIGIBILITY

All project teams **must include people with lived and living experience in intentional ways** and be able to describe this inclusion on the project team in more than advisory capacities.

Awards issued to external applicants (coming from entities other than UT Health San Antonio) must be eligible to receive federal funding.

KEY PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by peer support workers, community-based harm reduction workers, people with lived and living experience including those who use drugs and identify as in recovery or living with mental health and substance use concerns, clinical and medical professionals, recovery community organization staff, community advocates, housing and behavioral health administrators, faculty members, research scientists, post-doctoral research scholars, **and/or** graduate students who work in or have a passion for recovery science and research related to recovery support services or peer recovery support services, community-based services and programs designed and led by peers.

Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), Hispanic/Latinx/Latine, and LGBTQ+ identifying individuals are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants that propose to evaluate a clinical or medical intervention will not be considered for this funding opportunity and will result in an administrative rejection. All proposed studies must comport to the priority areas identified below or to broader topics related to peer recovery support services.

FUNDS

Applicants must budget for their application by considering the following amounts:

- Internal Applicants (from UT Health San Antonio): up to \$36,000 per award for direct costs.
- External applicants (from entities other than UT Health San Antonio): up to \$55,800 per award inclusive of direct plus indirect costs.

Approximately three projects will be funded per year, for project periods of up to 1 year.

The funds must be used to cover the direct costs of the study (e.g., data collection activities, equipment, staff support), as well as indirect costs. The total costs cannot exceed the award amount listed above.

Budgets will be reviewed commensurate to impact of the project.

SUBMISSION, TERM, AND CONDITIONS

The deadline for application receipt is **11:59pm (CST) on 11/14/2024**.

Applications must be submitted electronically via Survey Monkey Apply, <https://apply-uthscsa.smapply.io>. Documents should be uploaded as a single Portable Document Format (PDF) file, using Arial, 11-point font and single spacing. The font size for figures, figure legends,

charts, and tables may be smaller, but must be clearly legible. Margins all-around should be at least 0.5". Failure to follow these or the following guidelines may result in the application being administratively withdrawn.

The application should be organized as follows:

- PHS 398 Face Page (must only be completed by external applicants [coming from entities other than UT Health San Antonio])
- Project Summary/Abstract (250 words maximum)
- Project Budget (1 page maximum)
- Budget Justification (1 page maximum)
- Specific Aims (1 page maximum)
- Project narrative (4 page maximum)
 - Project narrative shall include sub-sections related to research protocol, significance, expected impact, innovation and novelty, research methods, translational and practical impact, and protections for human subjects (if applicable)
- Summary of inclusion of individuals with lived and living experience (1 page maximum)
- Literature citations (1 page maximum)
- Plans for obtaining extramural funding including agency and grant type (1 page maximum).
- Bio sketch for all investigators (new NIH format, limit 5 pages/investigator; alternatively, a standard CV or resume may be submitted)
- Letters of Support (if applicable, maximum three)
- **Optional:** 3-minute video highlighting the project, research team, and the expected impact of the project if successfully funded. The video can be uploaded as a separate attachment from the PDF.

Note: Applicants are welcome to use any or all sections of the "PRIN_Accelerator Program_Application" templates provided to organize their application but are **not** required to do so. Please visit the PRIN.uthscsa.edu/accelerator-program website to download the "PRIN_Accelerator Program_Application" templates.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will undergo a two-tiered system of review. Firstly, applications will be assessed by PRIN faculty and External Advisory Board on their scientific and real-world merit and their alignment with the areas of research prioritized above. Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Significance, novelty, and innovation.
- Research protocol.
- Project team: Interdisciplinary collaboration, inclusion of those with lived and living experience.
- Clarity of research plan and expected translation to a practice setting.
- Contribution to career development of emerging recovery scientists.

- Likelihood of submission for/securing NIH or other extramural funding post award.
- Protection of human subjects, compliance, and ethical issues.

A programmatic review will then be performed by the PRIN leadership team for program relevance and potential public health impact. Funding decisions will be based on both scientific and programmatic considerations.

We will notify you via email when a decision is made regarding the application. We expect to notify you within 30 days after the application deadline.

Awardee Responsibilities

An interim progress report will be requested after 6 months, final report upon conclusion of the award (12 months). Awardees will be required to submit new data generated by funded projects to the [NIH HEAL Data Platform](#). An in-person progress presentation at the Texas Substance Use Symposium will also be required during the funding period (note: applicants should include these travel costs in their proposed budgets).

Timeline

Application Cycle

- September 2024: Accelerator Program applications open
- Early November 2024: Applications reviewed
- Late November 2024: Award recipients are announced
- December 2024: Accelerator Program funds are awarded

Funding and Post-Award Period

- February 2025: In-person presentation at [Texas Substance Use Symposium](#)
- June 2025: Award recipients turn in interim progress report to PRIN
- End of December 2025: Award recipients turn in annual report to PRIN
- January 2026: Data is uploaded to [NIH HEAL Data Platform](#)

Contact Information

Please refer questions to Daniela I. Olmos, Program Manager in the Be Well Institute, at 210-450-7280 or olmosalvarez@uthscsa.edu.