

RFA-CE-23-003 Questions and Answers

1. Can I resubmit my application to a previous NOFO as long as I respond to reviewer comments? Also, could you tell me more about what “counts” as a resubmission? For example, if I plan to keep an aim the same but modify another one, can that still be considered a resubmission?
 - a. This NOFO does not allow application resubmissions. Applicants must submit a new application. You can apply with a similar or modified application as one that was submitted to previous NOFO, but it will be considered new and evaluated as such.
 - b. As per **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 3. Funding Strategy**, the application types allowed are ‘new’, which would be considered an application submitted for funding for the first time. This includes multiple submission attempts within the same round.

2. What experience does an organization need in order to qualify for this grant?
 - a. It is incumbent on the applicant institution to ascertain their eligibility to apply to this NOFO, according to **Section III. Eligibility Information, 1. Eligible Applicants**.
 - b. Please take special note of the **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators** section as well as **Section V. Application Review Information, 1. Criteria** for more details of qualifying experience.
 - c. For example, the **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators** section explains that individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the contact PD/PI are invited to work with their institution/organization and mentor to develop an application for support (please note that the CDC does not make awards to individuals directly). Specifically:
 - i. Applicant contact PD/PIs must have a qualifying (relevant to the field of study) research or health- professional doctoral or medical degree (specifically PhD, ScD, DO, DrPH, MD, DVMD, PharmD, DDS, DMD), from an accredited institution of higher learning. Applications that do not demonstrate that the contact PD/PI has a qualifying (relevant to the field of study) research or health professional doctoral or medical degree (specifically PhD, ScD, DO, DrPH, MD, DVMD, PharmD, DDS, DMD) from an accredited institution of higher learning, as evidenced by their SF-424 Biographical Sketch, will be considered nonresponsive and will not be forwarded for peer review.
 - ii. Also, at the time of the NOFO application due date, applicant contact PD/PIs must have less than five years of post-graduate research experience as a researcher in the violence prevention field, as documented on the contact PD/PI’s SF-424 Biographical Sketch. The 5-year period will be calculated from the completion of the qualifying degree (e.g., a research or health-professional doctoral or medical degree [specifically PhD, ScD, DO, DrPH, MD, DVMD, PharmD, DDS, DMD] from an accredited institution of higher learning). The Positions and Employment section of SF-424 Biographical Sketch is expected to clearly document all of the contact PD/PI’s relevant research experience. Applications that do not demonstrate that the contact PD/PI has less than five years of post-graduate experience as a researcher in the violence prevention field, as evidenced by their SF-424 Biographical Sketch, will

be considered nonresponsive to the NOFO and will not be forwarded for peer review.

3. If I received my Ph.D. more than 5 years ago, completed a NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship, but then worked in another industry, would I be able to apply to this funding opportunity?
 - a. We are not able to provide direct guidance on whether or not an individual is eligible to apply. However, we can point to several sections of the NOFO that applications should carefully review to determine if they meet eligibility criteria.
 - b. Please carefully review the **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators** section to gain clarity on the eligibility criteria as well as to determine if the type of assistance you received is among the excluded mechanisms that would make the PI ineligible for a K01. For example, this section states the following:
 - i. Applications from contact PD/PIs who completed their qualifying degree prior to January 5, 2018 and do not clearly document their relevant post-graduate research experience in violence prevention (including breaks in employment or research in other areas) will be considered nonresponsive to the NOFO and will not be forwarded for peer review.
 - ii. The excluded assistance mechanisms are: CDC or NIH research project (R01 or U01), program project (P01), center grant (R49, P50), sub-project of program project (P01), sub-project of center grant (R49, P50), or other major individual career development award (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K22, K23, K25, K76, K99/R00). Applications with a contact PD/PI eRA Commons Grant History profile that reflects a current or former award in any of the named excluded independent research assistance mechanisms will be considered nonresponsive and will not be forwarded for peer review.
 - c. Please also review **Section III. Eligibility Information, 5. Responsiveness** for details on what constitutes a responsive application.
4. Can I serve as a mentor for this funding opportunity?
 - a. Please carefully review the Mentor Requirements portion of the NOFO in **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 2. Approach**. For example, this section explains that the primary mentor must be an active investigator in the area of the violence prevention research proposed in the research strategy of the application and must be committed both to the career development of the contact PD/PI and to the direct supervision of the contact PD/PI's research throughout the entirety of the project period. The mentor should clearly document the availability of sufficient research support and facilities for high-quality research.
5. Can you review my research project, training aims, and CV to let me know if they are relevant to this funding opportunity?
 - a. We are not able to provide specific guidance or information on the design of your research project or CV, but we can point you to sections of the NOFO that can help with developing your application.
 - b. To get a detailed description of the intent of this NOFO, please especially review the **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 1. Background and Purpose** section.
 - c. In the **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 2. Approach** section, please especially review the *Contact PD/PI Requirements, Research Strategy*

Requirements, and Objectives/Outcomes portions of the NOFO for information which can assist with developing the submission materials.

- d. Please also review **Section III. Eligibility Information, 5. Responsiveness** for details on what constitutes a responsive application.
 - e. You may also review the CDC website for guidance on grant applications at <https://www.cdc.gov/grants/applying/index.html>.
6. I noted that the applicant "is not required to have a tenure track appointment at the eligible applicant institution in order to be eligible". I have a full time job as a research fellow at a university. Does my institution have to attest that I have a position for the year that the grant would be awarded if I do not secure the grant? If so, would a continuation of my postdoctoral fellowship be sufficient or would they need to offer me a faculty position?
- a. According to the **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators** section of the NOFO, at the time of the NOFO application due date, the contact PD/PI must have a full-time position at the eligible applicant institution, as evidenced by inclusion of a Candidate Eligibility Statement (e.g. an institutional letter of attestation), signed by the eligible applicant institution's Authorized Representative and included in the Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development section of the application, verifying the contact PD/PI's full-time employment status. The contact PD/PI is not required to have a tenure track appointment at the eligible applicant institution in order to be eligible for this NOFO. Applications that do not include a Candidate Eligibility Statement, signed by the applicant institution's Authorized Representative, verifying the contact PD/PI's full-time employment status will be considered nonresponsive and will not be forwarded for peer review.
7. Is this grant transferrable to another institution? As a post-doc, I am actively applying for other academic positions and I'm not sure at what point I could be moving institutions. My mentor team would remain the same.
- a. Please review **Section II. Award Information**, particularly noting the information pertaining to the CDC grant policies.
8. The NOFO states "Grant funds will not be made available for mentor or research assistance support." Can you explain what this means regarding "research assistance support"? Specifically, would I be able to budget hourly pay for someone to help with data entry after I've collected it?
- a. As stated in **Section IV. Application and Submission Information, 11. Other Submission Requirements and Information**, allowable costs include partial salary and tuition support for the applicant contact PD/PI; direct research project expenses such as trainee stipends, interviewer costs, data processing, participant incentives, statistical consultation services, and supplies. Travel to one scientific meeting, if adequately justified, is allowable.
 - b. "Data processing" and "statistical consultation services" or someone to do the data processing tasks, namely, data entry or a research assistant to do data entry, are allowed.
9. My research proposal would require me to drive to another part of the state I'm in to recruit and collect data with participants. Can I include funding for research related travel expenses (e.g., gas mileage, hotel stays)? The NOFO states that only one scientific

meeting can be attended, but I wasn't sure if costs related to actual research data collection would be different.

- a. Travel costs as they relate to CDC-funded research is allowable as long as the costs are reasonable and allocable to the project.
10. I have been trying to send the proposal for the Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-CE-23-003, but it seems that I have trouble with my workspace. Is there anyone from your office who can guide or support on this process?
- a. Problems with grants.gov can be resolved by contacting the grants.gov contact center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at support@grants.gov.
 - b. Please see **Section VII. Agency Contacts** in the NOFO, which includes contact information from Grants.gov and eRA Commons for technical support.
 - c. Also, please see **Section IV. Application and Submission Information** for additional information on who to contact in the event of technical difficulties.
11. Does the primary mentor need to be at your university? Does your primary mentor need to be in your discipline? For your primary mentor or mentoring team, do you need evidence of having worked with them before (e.g., publication)?
- a. As stated in **Section III. Eligibility Information, 10. Number of Applications**, the primary mentor may be employed by the applicant institution or at a different institution.
 - b. **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 2. Approach** states that applicant contact PD/PIs are expected to identify a primary mentor who will supervise the proposed career development and research experience funded under this NOFO. The primary mentor must be an active investigator in the area of the violence prevention research proposed in the research strategy of the application and must be committed both to the career development of the contact PD/PI and to the direct supervision of the contact PD/PI's research throughout the entirety of the project period.
 - c. There is nothing in the NOFO that says you have to have evidence of prior work with them.
12. Does the CDC K award provide a lump sum of \$150,000 to budget in our own salary over the two years?
- a. According to **Section IV. Application and Submission Information, 11. Other Submission Requirements and Information**, allowable costs include partial salary and tuition support for the applicant contact PD/PI; direct research project expenses such as trainee stipends, interviewer costs, data.
13. For indirect costs, the cost that goes to the institution, is that included in the \$150,000?
- a. The **Executive Summary** explains that the maximum award amount will be \$150,000 per award for the first 12-month budget period. This includes both direct and indirect costs. For this award, the indirect costs are limited to 8% of Modified Total Direct Cost.
14. I will be collaborating with a university or private professional. Page 11 of the NOFO states that during the second level of review, you will allow for broadening distribution of awards. What does that criterion mean?
- a. For more details on the second level of review, please see **Section V. Application Review Information, 4. Review and Selection Process**. In particular, this section states that consideration for applications in which the

contact eligible PD/PI is from an under-represented population, as defined in the NIH Diversity Statement and as verified by the applicant institution, to broaden distribution of awards in order to support career development in violence prevention research for PD/PIs from under-represented populations.

15. What is the total number of awards that will be funded?
 - a. As stated in the **Executive Summary**, the NCIPC intends to commit up to \$600,000 (direct and indirect costs) in FY2023 to support up to four applications for this NOFO. The total funding and the number of awards is contingent upon availability of funds and a sufficient number of meritorious applications.
16. How are funds allocated if funds are awarded? For example, what determines whether an approved application gets some, none, or all of the funds?
 - a. Per **Section II. Award Information**, awards issued under this NOFO are contingent on the availability of funds and submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Throughout the Period of Performance, CDC's commitment to continuation of awards will depend on the availability of funds, evidence of satisfactory progress by the recipient (as documented in required reports), and CDC's determination that continued funding is in the best interest of the Federal government.
 - b. The estimated total funding (direct and indirect costs) for the first budget period for each award is up to \$150,000. The maximum total project funding amount per award is \$300,000 (including direct and indirect costs) over the expected project period length, with a maximum of \$150,000 per award per budget period. Indirect costs are limited to a fixed rate of eight percent of MTDC exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and sub-awards in excess of \$25,000. The project period for the award is expected to run from 9/30/2023 to 9/29/2025.
17. Are reference letters required for this program and, if so, how many?
 - a. The NOFO specifies that each proposed mentor must provide a distinct Letter of Support. Please review **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description (2. Approach)** for more details on what is required for these letters. Please also especially review **Section III. Eligibility Information (5. Responsiveness)** as well as **Section V. Application Review Information**.
18. Would we treat the CDC K01 like a typical NIH K01, with any additional instructions from this CDC K01 NOFO? For example, for a NIH K01, mentor and co-mentor Other Support documents are required. Would we also include Other Support documents for mentor/co-mentors on this CDC K01 application?
 - a. You are correct in that applicants are to follow the instructions in the guide (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>) except where instructed to do otherwise in the RFA-CE-23-003 NOFO. The guide states, in the **Profile – Senior/Key Person 1** section:
 1. "For mentored career development award applications, you must include "Current and Pending Support" pages for each of the mentor and co-mentor(s). You do not need to include "Current and Pending Support" pages for the candidate."

19. Is the page limit of the Research Strategy alone limited to 20 pages, or is the Research Strategy in combination with the Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development, limited to 20 pages together?
- a. Per **Section IV. Application and Submission Information (7. Page Limitations)**, the Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development file is limited to 20 pages. Also, the Research Strategy file is limited to 20 pages. When you access the NOFO on the grants.gov website and click the blue 'Package' tab at the top, you can preview the forms. You will find that, when you select the PHS 398 Career Development Award Supplemental Form, there are separate fields for the two documents in question, and each is limited to 20 pages.