

2011 Call for Proposals – Round V

Dissertation and Junior Faculty Awards

Assuring the Future of Public Health Services and Systems Research

**National
Coordinating
Center for
PHSSR**



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

This is a solicitation from the University of Kentucky National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research. This program is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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Program Overview

Public health services and systems research (PHSSR) is an emerging field of inquiry dedicated to analysis of the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services, and examining the effect that these services have on population health status. The field of PHSSR will inform and impact how public health will be delivered in the future. It is imperative to encourage junior investigators to pursue research careers in PHSSR and ensure that this promising field continues to grow. The National Coordinating Center for PHSSR aims to address this need for more junior investigators via this award opportunity.

The National Coordinating Center (NCC) for PHSSR at the University of Kentucky, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are working to establish a new PHSSR research agenda. The draft agenda provides research questions that should form the basis of specific aims in the proposals that respond to this call. This draft agenda is available at <http://www.publichealthsystems.org>. The agenda addresses questions in the following areas about public health infrastructure:

- Workforce – Defining, Educating and Training the Public Health Workforce
- Technology, Data and Methods—Technologies and Outcomes, Performance Methods and Health Outcomes, Data Availability, Dissemination and Utility
- Financing—Public Health Financing and Payment Mechanisms, Costs, Performance and Outcomes
- Structure and Organization – Public Health Systems Dimensions, Key Elements and Characteristics, Performance Management and Outcomes

Since the fall of 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has funded the University of Kentucky College of Public Health to develop a collection of data sets in conjunction with the National Library of Medicine to strengthen resources for the emerging field of public health services and systems research.

This call for proposals from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health offers the fifth round of funding for promising junior investigators whose research will use data sets contained in the Public Health Systems Research (PHSR) subset of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Health Services Research Resources (HSRR), other relevant data sets that may be available, or data collected by the researcher to accomplish new research on public health services and systems research. These \$10,000 awards are available for pre-doctoral dissertation applicants or junior faculty who are within three years of their initial faculty appointment. Up to \$100,000 is available in total funds for the PHSSR awards program.

Annual Keeneland PHSSR Conference

The annual Keeneland Conference, designed to alert scholars to topics relevant to the practice community, provides an opportunity for researchers to disseminate new information that can improve public health services. It also allows new investigators to meet and identify other investigators who are working in similar areas, facilitates collaborative research in the future, and provides opportunities for junior investigators to present their research and receive feedback from peers. All of these activities contribute to the development of PHSSR. The conference provides networking sessions and the opportunity to present and discuss research topics.

Additional information is available at www.publichealthsystems.org, *Events and Conferences section*.

All awardees are required and their PHSSR mentors are encouraged to participate in all conference sessions of the 2012 Keeneland PHSSR Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. Awardees are encouraged attend the 2013 Keeneland PHSSR Conference to present their research findings. Approved flight, hotel and conference expenses will be paid for or reimbursed by the University of Kentucky in accordance with the University's travel expense guidelines and should not be budgeted in or charged to the award contract. The University of Kentucky will pay for travel expenses related to attending the 2013 Keeneland Conference based on the availability of funds. **You do not need to include costs associated with attending the 2012 or 2013 Keeneland PHSSR Conferences in your budget.**

Eligibility Criteria

Pre-doctoral dissertation applicants must:

- Have completed all the necessary prerequisites to begin the research project, including being advanced to doctoral candidacy;
- Have the written support of the chair of their dissertation, capstone or equivalent, including a commitment to completing research in the specified PHSSR area of inquiry;
- Have a U.S.-based college or university agree to administer and be the award recipient;
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the first phase deliverables in six months, complete research in one year, and submit a peer-reviewed manuscript for publication within 18 months of the start of the award; and
- Work with a PHSSR expert mentor for the project, to be documented by a letter of support and curriculum vitae from the mentor.

Junior faculty applicants should:

- Be within three years of their initial faculty appointment;
- Have a U.S.-based college or university agree to receive and administer the award;
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the first phase deliverables in six months, complete research in one year, and submit a peer-reviewed manuscript for publication within 18 months of the start of the award; and
- Work with a PHSSR expert mentor for the project, to be documented by a letter of support and curriculum vitae from the mentor.

Applicants who require assistance identifying a mentor may contact Jay Swacker via email at PHSSR212@uky.edu for a potential mentor referral.

Preference will be given to proposed projects that include secondary data analysis using the data sets found in the Public Health Systems Research subset of NLM's Health Services Research Resources. To examine these data sets, go to http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hsrr_search/. Click "Browse", and click on "PHSR" under topic subset. However, applicants are not limited to the use of these data sets. All research proposals relevant to PHSSR will be given equal consideration.

Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Non-Citizen Nationals, or Resident Foreign Nationals.

This program embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions such as race, ethnicity, gender, age and disadvantaged socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications from candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the better we are able to help all Americans live healthier lives and get the care they need.

Use of award funds

Award funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. Award funds may not be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, for political activities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities. For junior faculty awards, support for a research assistant is permitted.

Awards

Awards will be structured as fixed price contracts of \$10,000 to the applicant's university or college and will require approval of the applicant's university or college to administer the contract prior to disbursement of funds. The awards are scheduled to begin on January 1, 2012, but the start date of each individual award is dependent on the successful negotiation of a subcontract agreement between the awardee's university and the University of Kentucky. The contract will have a six month duration, ending on June 30, 2012. An invoice for the first \$5,000 payment should be submitted no later than March 1, 2012, and an invoice for the second \$5,000 should be submitted after the successful completion of the first phase deliverables listed below no later than July 2, 2012.

Deliverables

Proposed research projects must contribute to the growing PHSSR evidence base and be consistent with one of the research priority areas defined in the new PHSSR agenda. NCC staff will provide technical assistance to awardees as needed on completion of deliverables and methods of disseminating results. Specific activities to be completed include:

In the first phase of the project, all awardees must:

- Complete the project research plan and literature review, receive approval from the PHSSR mentor, and submit a copy to the assigned NCC contact. Any changes to the originally approved project scope and design must be discussed and approved in writing by the mentor and NCC contact.
- Attend the 2012 Keeneland Conference to be held **April 17-19, 2012** in Lexington, Kentucky, and present a progress report of the study and participate in awardee workshop;
- Participate in awardee webinars hosted by the NCC; and
- Submit timely information to NCC for progress reports to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as requested.

In the first phase of the project, Junior Faculty awardees also must generate a systematic review, which expands the applicable systematic review(s) developed by the National Coordinating Center in 2011. These reviews will be published in an American Journal of Preventive Medicine special issue on the PHSSR agenda, planned for spring 2012.

In the second phase of the project, awardees must:

- Provide documentation of applications to present research findings at a minimum of one national or regional conference other than the Keeneland Conference;
- Participate in awardee webinars hosted by the NCC;
- Submit timely information to NCC for progress reports to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as requested;
- Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal on the research findings within 12 months of the close of the funding period; and
- Document additional methods of dissemination to public health practitioners and policy-makers.

How to apply

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted electronically. Visit the [UK Awards Program homepage \(http://bit.ly/PHSSR_Awards\)](http://bit.ly/PHSSR_Awards) and use the “**Apply Online**” link for this solicitation. If you are not already registered at [MyRWJF](http://www.rwjf.org), you will be required to register before you begin the application process.

Key Dates and Deadlines

Thursday, September 8, 2011 (9:00 am EST) – CFP release date

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 (3:00 pm EST) – Applicant web conference

Thursday, October 13, 2011 (3:00 p.m. EST) – Deadline for receipt of online proposal

Friday, November 18, 2011 (3:00 p.m. EST) – Notification of awards

January 2012 – Awards begin

Thursday, March 1, 2012 (3:00 pm EST) – First invoice to NCC due

Monday, July 2, 2012 (3:00 p.m. EST) – Phase 1 deliverables and second invoice to NCC due

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<http://twitter.com/cphssr>



<http://www.youtube.com/thecenterforphssr>

Questions may be directed to:

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