

Issue #99

PBRN Week in Review | January 9 2012

PBRN Grantees: Please circulate relevant information to your network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) at publichealthpbrn@uky.edu or (859) 218-2094. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

Notable PBRN Activities

- **Deadline Approaching - Junior Investigator Awards to Expand Diversity through Mentored Public Health PBRN Research:** The National Coordinating Center for PHSSR announces the availability of funds to support predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers from under-represented backgrounds to engage in a mentored research experience within a Public Health PBRN. Four awards are available for junior investigators from backgrounds that historically have been under-represented in scientific and research disciplines. The awards will allow the funded investigator to contribute to the research of the sponsoring Public Health PBRN while receiving mentorship and support from senior PBRN leaders and investigators. The awards also include travel support to attend the Keeneland Conference on PHSSR. *Applications must be received via email by Tuesday January 17, 2012 at 3pm EST.* More information on how to apply has been sent to the key contact person(s) in each Public Health PBRN. Contact the [PBRN Coordinating Center](#) for more information. *PBRN Networks – we encourage you to utilize the outreach mechanisms available through your academic partners to link with and engage junior researchers and graduate students from under-represented backgrounds, such as minority student caucuses, health disparities interest groups, and research centers like the network of NIH-funded [centers of excellence in health disparities research](#).*
- **Conference Presentation Deadlines Are At Hand.** Abstract submission deadlines are approaching to present research at three of the nation’s leading venues for public health services and systems research. Abstracts for the *Keeneland Conference on PHSSR are due [TODAY – Monday January 9 by 3pm EST](#)*. Abstracts for the *AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting are due on [Thursday January 12](#)*. And the deadline for research session proposals for the *2012 NACCHO Annual Meeting are due [January 17](#)*. Deadlines for abstract submissions for the *2012 APHA Annual Meeting* are also around the corner. Don’t miss these important opportunities to disseminate your network’s research!
- **New Dissemination Opportunity for PHSSR:** An upcoming issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* will be dedicated to advances in PHSSR, with a special focus on approaches for translating findings to policy and practice audiences. The issue, tentatively titled, “The Science of Public Health Practice: Advances in PHSSR” is being guest-edited by the PBRN Coordinating Center’s Glen Mays and the National Coordinating Center for PHSSR’s Doug Scutchfield. Invited manuscripts will be due on March 1 2012, with a final publication date of November 2012 to be released in conjunction with next year’s APHA Annual Meeting.

Research manuscripts already have been invited from PBRN authors who have expressed an interest in this opportunity, but if you would like to discuss an idea or require assistance in developing your manuscript please contact the [PBRN Coordinating Center](#).

- **Launching the Public Health REACT Podcast:** As more PBRN research projects are bearing fruit, the Public Health PBRN Program is developing a new vehicle for rapidly disseminating key findings and practice implications from this research to key audiences, tentatively called the *Public Health Research-to-Action (REACT) Podcast*. Through this vehicle, the program will produce a series of fast and timely podcast interviews with PBRN networks as they are completing research projects, focusing squarely on the implications of the research for public health practice and policy decisions. NAC member and Arkansas secretary of health Dr. Paul Halverson has agreed to host this series of approximately 3-minute conversations with PBRN leaders about their research projects. Dr. Halverson will serve as an interviewer and provocateur for these sessions, driven by a few targeted questions asked by a sitting state health official. With Dr. Halverson leading the conversation, we can be sure that these sessions will emphasize brevity, clarity, and relevance to real-world public health practice and policy, particularly at state and local levels. We will disseminate the podcasts through a variety of channels, including the PBRN website, the PHSSR Youtube channel, and partnerships with key public health professional organizations. *We are soliciting and scheduling topics for REACT Podcasts now – please let us know as soon as you have emerging findings from your network’s research that are ready for dissemination. Contact the [Coordinating Center](#) with your ideas about this opportunity.*
- **A Reminder: Please Route All Questions on Grant Budgeting, Reporting, and Administration to the PBRN Coordinating Center:** The PBRN National Coordinating Center is your one-stop source for information and assistance on the administrative aspects of your PBRN projects, including budgeting, expenditures, subcontracts, and reporting. Please make sure that you send your network’s questions to the Coordinating Center (email publichealthPBRN@uky.edu or telephone (859) 218-2094) to ensure the fastest response.

Related Developments in Research and Practice

- **2012 Keeneland Conference Planning:** The National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research (PHSSR) at the University of Kentucky is hosting the *2012 PHSSR Keeneland Conference* from April 17-19, 2012, in beautiful Lexington, Kentucky. The Call for Abstracts will close at 3 p.m. EST on Monday, January 9, 2012. Researchers, practitioners and policymakers who are interested in sharing their work during the scientific sessions should visit the conference website at www.keenelandconference.org or follow on Twitter, www.twitter.com/keenelandconf, for updates. Questions regarding submission guidelines should be sent to the national program office via email, abstracts@publichealthsystems.org or phone 859-218-2289. Confirmed speakers for the 2012 conference include: Dr. Harvey Fineberg, President, Institute of Medicine (IOM); and Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Join close to 400 PHSSR colleagues to discuss the future of the nation's public health system. Previous programs, agendas and presentations are also available for download from the conference website. *The Public Health PBRN Program will have its Annual PBRN Grantee Meeting on April 16-17, 2012 in conjunction with Keeneland, and its PBRN National*

Advisory Committee meeting on April 17. Please email the Coordinating Center with any ideas or requests you have regarding the agendas for these meetings.

- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting Accepting Abstracts until January 12:** AcademyHealth is now accepting abstracts for its 2012 Annual Research Meeting to be held in Orlando FL on June 24-26. Among the 12 research theme areas for this year's conference is "Public Health, Prevention, and Population Health Improvement." As in years past, there will also be a meeting of the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group. Abstracts are due by January 12 at 5pm EST. [More](#) information.
- **Proposals for sessions at the 2012 NACCHO Annual Conference in Los Angeles can be submitted until January 17.** The NACCHO Annual Conference is the year's largest gathering of local health department leaders and staff and provides a unique opportunity for connecting researchers and practitioners. The public health research track gives public health researchers an opportunity to influence the practice of public health and helps public health practitioners to learn from the research experiences of others and to apply what they learn to their own practice. More information and the on-line abstract submission system are available at <http://www.nacchoannual.org/agenda/session.html>.

Activities on the Horizon

- **PH PBRN Monthly Virtual Meeting for January.** The Public Health PBRN Monthly Virtual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EST. As part of the PBRN Research-in-Progress section, representatives from the Washington Public Health PBRN will present emerging findings from their research (to be determined). Please [email](#) us any items you would like to be placed on the meeting agenda.

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Keeneland, AcademyHealth, NACCHO and APHA.** See the above posts for abstracts being accepted for the Keeneland Conference, the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, the NACCHO Annual Meeting, and the APHA Annual Meeting. These meetings are go-to places to discuss the production, translation, and consumption of PHSSR.

Resources in Research and Practice

WEBINARS

- **Skill-Building Opportunities for PBRNs:** A new set of on-demand methods webinars are making available free of charge to PBRNs for a limited time only – through January 2012. The following webinars are now available from AcademyHealth – contact the [Coordinating Center](#) for information on how to access these sessions free of charge as a PBRN participant:
 1. **Analysis of Social Networks (parts 2 and 3).** These sessions, from a three-part webinar series taught by Dr. Robert A Hanneman from the University of California, Riverside, will address ways in which the network perspective can inform common types

of health services research. Practical guidance on the common statistical software for analyzing networks will be covered, in addition to advanced concepts that are useful for developing strategies to implement change in networks.

2. **Give Your Research a Voice: Social Media Dissemination and Knowledge.** Participants will learn how researchers can use social media to communicate their research to stakeholders—primarily policymakers and media. Austin Frakt, researcher and founder of The Incidental Economist blog, discusses the potential of blogging for dissemination and knowledge transfer. Participants will gain insight into the influence of health policy blogging, along with the pros and cons of using it as a dissemination strategy. Lou Rossiter, professor at The College of William & Mary, provides the policymaker perspective on the challenges of finding the information in a timely manner. He will share his insight on the role of social media and offer advice on how researchers can stand out in the crowd.
3. **Innovations in Health Surveys.** Panelists from the Innovations in Health Services section at the 2011 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM) highlight their innovative methods in regard to survey research. As modern technology provides new challenges and opportunities to research subjects and access data, the panelists speak on issues such as probability sampling, mixed methods, and research to impact practice in a health care setting. Panelists include Jordon Peugh, Knowledge Networks; Trent Buskirk, St. Louis University School of Public Health; Charles DiSogra, Knowledge Networks; and Sara Singer of the Harvard School of Public Health.

➔ **NIH Resources on Systems Science.** NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research continues to amass a treasure trove of resources for researchers seeking to understand and use systems science approaches in their work. Among these resources are:

1. Annual Institute on Systems Science and Health (ISSH). There is a call for applications each fall (mid-December) and a weeklong spring/summer course each year. To view ISSH materials from prior years, please click [here](#). The 2012 application site is not accepting applications just yet.
2. The archives for the wildly popular 2007 Symposia Series on System Science and Health sponsored by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other components of NIH is available. Resources include: Systems Methodologies for Solving Real-World Problems: Applications in Public Health <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13712>; Network Analysis: Using Connections and Structures to Understand and Change Health Behaviors, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13878> ; Agent Based Modeling: Population Health from the Bottom Up, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13931> ; System Dynamics Modeling: Population Flows, Feedback Loops and Health, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?14005>

3. The BSSR Lecture Series, including “Harnessing Systems Science Methodologies To Inform Public Policy: System Dynamics Modeling For Obesity Policy In The Envision Network” <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?16756>

And don't forget the wonderful NIH funding opportunities available to support health research that uses system science methodologies. See the PBRN funding opportunities list archive below.

- **Using Mixed Methods Appropriately and Rigorously.** The next installment of the AcademyHealth webinar series on mixed-method strategies in health services and policy research takes place in January, offered by Shoshanna Sofaer, DrPH, School of Public Affairs, Baruch College. Course Level: 201 (Intermediate) Session 1: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (EDT). Session 2: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (EDT). More information and registration [here](#) (fee required).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Applications Accepted for NIH Training Institute on Dissemination and Implementation Research.** NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research offers a free 5-day training institute to provide participants with a thorough grounding in conducting dissemination and implementation research in health. Faculty and guest lecturers will consist of leading experts (practitioners and teachers) in theory, implementation and evaluation approaches to D&I, creating partnerships and multi-level transdisciplinary research teams, research design, methods and analyses appropriate for D&I investigations and conducting research at different and multiple levels of intervention (e.g., clinical, community, policy). More information and application instructions are [here](#).
- **Abstracts Accepted for National Meeting on Health Impact Assessments.** On April 3-4, 2012, public health professionals, policy analysts and researchers will convene in a meeting to capitalize on the burgeoning national interest in Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Anyone with an interest in learning more about HIA should attend. It also will offer a special, one-day forum tailored specifically to decision makers at all levels of government in the U.S. Abstracts for those wishing to present at the meeting are due by no later than 8:00pm ET on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. More information [here](#).

REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Full Report of NACCHO's Job Losses and Program Cuts Survey and New “Stories from the Field” Now Available.** In October, NACCHO released a preliminary report on its most recent Job Losses and Program Cuts survey, demonstrating that continued budget cuts undermine the ability of LHDs to protect the health of the communities they serve. A new, final report provides a more in-depth look at the data, and new “Stories from the Field” illustrate the impact of these cuts at two LHDs. More info is available at www.naccho.org/jobloss.

- **New Report on Effects of Publicly Disclosing Food Inspection Results:** The National Research Council of the National Academies has released a new report examining the potential consequences of publicly releasing establishment-specific data on the results of food safety inspections. Drawing heavily from the experiences of state and local health departments, the report concludes that there are important potential benefits from such reporting, including creating strong incentives for industry-wide improvements in food safety practices. The full report can be found [here](#).
- **Article Examines Accreditation Beta Test and National Launch:** A new paper available early online from [AJPH](#) profiles the beta testing experience and national launch of the PHAB national voluntary accreditation program for state and local public health agencies. The paper concludes that the launch has significant potential for driving continuous quality improvement across the nation’s governmental public health infrastructure.
- **Systematic Review of Collaboration and Network Research:** Another new paper available early online from [AJPH](#) provides a systematic review of the literature on collaboration and network analysis in the public affairs literature, and examines the implications for research and practice in public health. The paper identifies a number of concepts and methods that are ripe for translation and application in public health settings, and elucidates three findings from the public affairs literature that need to be explored more fully in public health: “network structure affects governance, management strategies exist for administrators, and collaboration can be linked to outcomes.”
- **New Research Briefs Guide Evaluations on Patient-Centered Medical Homes:** AHRQ has commissioned two new resources to guide research and evaluation concerning patient-centered medical home models – some of which seek to incorporate expanded public health and prevention strategies into their activities. The papers, produced by Mathematica Policy Research, offer guidance on research designs, measurement strategies, outcome selection, sample size, and other issues that are highly relevant for public health PBRNs seeking to study primary care and public health collaborative initiatives to improve health outcomes. Access to these and other papers are available on the AHRQ [website](#).

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- **Public Health Law Research Annual Meeting.** January 18-20, New Orleans LA. More information [here](#).
- **Public Health Preparedness Summit.** [PHP Summit](#) in Anaheim, February 21-24, 2012
- **NIH Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health.** March 19-20, Bethesda, MD. More information [here](#).
- **Inaugural National Health Impact Assessment Meeting.** Washington, DC April 3-4, 2012. Abstracts due 8:00pm ET on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. More information [here](#).
- **Annual Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting.** Lexington, KY April 16-17, 2012. In conjunction with the Keeneland Conference.

- **Annual Public Health PBRN National Advisory Committee Meeting.** Lexington, KY April 17, 2012. In conjunction with the Keeneland Conference.
- **Keeneland Conference on PHSSR.** Lexington, KY, April 17-19, 2012. Keeneland Conference. Abstracts are due ***TODAY – Monday January 9 by 3pm EST***
- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.** Orlando FL on June 24-26. Abstracts are due by January 12 at 5pm EST. [More](#) information.
- **NACCHO Annual Meeting.** Los Angeles, CA July 11-13, 2012. Abstracts are due January 17. [More](#) information.
- **APHA Annual Meeting.** San Francisco, October 27-31, 2012. Abstract deadlines vary in February 2012. [More](#) information.

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The NCC maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to its networks. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

PUBLIC HEALTH PBRN NEW LISTINGS

- **Quick Strike Research Projects:** The Public Health PBRN Coordinating Center will solicit, select, and coordinate the implementation of up to four Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF) research projects to be carried out by primary and affiliate members of the Public Health PBRN Program during the 2011-2012 program year. Projects must address time-sensitive research questions based on emerging information needs in public health practice and policy; must have a high probability of leading to subsequent, larger-scale studies; and must be feasible for completion with a limited budget of up to \$25,000 in total costs and within 3-6 months. These projects will be funded through a subcontract to each awardee to expedite initiation of the research. Grantees will be expected to disseminate practice-relevant findings rapidly through the new rapid-release publication *Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research* and other vehicles, and will be expected translate findings into practice improvements through the development of webinars, training sessions, and decision tools for use by practitioners and policy analysts.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until all awards have been given or until a final deadline of August 31 2012 has been reached. PBRN networks should submit a brief proposal of no more than four single-paged pages (one-inch margins, 11 point Arial font) by emailing their proposal as an attachment in PDF format to publichealthPBRN@uky.edu with “QSRF Proposal” indicated in the subject line. The proposal must include: (A) a description of the rationale and specific aims for the proposed project; (B) a summary of the research design, data and analytic methods to be used; (C) a description of the practice settings involved in the research and how they will be engaged in the design, implementation, and translation of the research; and (D) a brief summary of the roles and qualifications of key personnel. Proposals will be reviewed by Coordinating Center staff and members of the Public Health PBRN National Advisory Committee (NAC) using the following selection criteria: (1) the importance of the topic in terms of its ability to inform public health practice and/or policy; (2) time-sensitivity of the research opportunity; (3) feasibility of the project given budget and time constraints and expertise of network; (4) strength of mechanisms for engaging practice settings in the study and its translation; and (5) potential for the study to lead to subsequent, larger-scale funded research. Additionally, for PBRN networks that have received prior QSRF awards, reviewers will consider the past performance of the network in publishing and disseminating results from prior QSRF projects and in pursuing subsequent

larger-scale studies. Based on the proposal reviews, successful applicants will be asked to submit a project budget and additional materials required for award processing.

- **Junior Investigator Awards to Expand Diversity through Mentored Public Health PBRN Research:** The National Coordinating Center for PHSSR announces the availability of funds to support predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers from under-represented backgrounds to engage in a mentored research experience within a Public Health PBRN. Four awards are available for junior investigators from backgrounds that historically have been under-represented in scientific and research disciplines. The awards will allow the funded investigator to contribute to the research of the sponsoring Public Health PBRN while receiving mentorship and support from senior PBRN leaders and investigators. The awards also include travel support to attend the Keeneland Conference on PHSSR. **Applications must be received via email by Tuesday January 17, 2012 at 3pm EST.** More information on how to apply has been sent to the key contact person(s) in each Public Health PBRN. Contact the PBRN Coordinating Center for more information.

OTHER NEW LISTINGS

- **NSF Solicits Interdisciplinary Research Across Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences:** The NSF released a “dear colleague” letter this month encouraging research proposals that pursue solutions to important social problems using approaches that cut across the social, behavioral and economic sciences. The announcement states, “innovative partnerships and research collaborations that allow diverse individuals to work together in synergistic ways are especially encouraged. We also encourage projects that *include beginning researchers* as team members and, when appropriate, develop international partnerships. Finally, applicants are encouraged to consider the cross-cutting Research Coordination Networks solicitation (11-531), which supports *networking activities*, not research per se, so that *groups of investigators can communicate and coordinate their research, training and educational activities across disciplinary, organizational, geographic and international boundaries*. Proposals that come through the RCN solicitation are also eligible for supplemental funding through SMA.” More information [here](#).
- **NIH Common Fund Research on Economic Studies Ancillary to Health Care Delivery and Financing Pilots:** Two funding opportunities through the NIH Common Fund seek to support research that examines the impact of demonstrations and pilot programs that test new approaches for delivering and financing health services, *including approaches that involve public health organizations and expanded prevention services*. Larger R01 awards and smaller R21/R33 awards are available, but the deadlines are fast approaching on February 8, 2012. More information [here](#) and [here](#).
- **National Institute for Nursing Research to fund studies of “Mobile Health” applications.** The purpose of this initiative issued by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) is to stimulate research utilizing Mobile Health (mHealth) tools aimed at the improvement of effective patient–provider communication, adherence to treatment, self-management and prevention of chronic diseases in underserved populations. With the rapid expansion of cellular networks and substantial advancements in Smartphone technologies, mHealth tools may facilitate more timely and effective patient-provider communication through education communication around goal setting, treatment reminders, feedback on patient progress and may improve health outcomes. *Public health agencies in some areas are becoming involved in the development and deployment of these technologies for prevention, active surveillance, and disease control.* This announcement encourages the development, testing and comparative effective analysis of interventions utilizing mHealth technologies in underserved populations. More information [here](#).

- **NSF/AHRQ Funding for Systems Modeling in Health:** NSF, in collaboration with the Health Information Technology (IT) Portfolio at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), invites investigator-initiated proposals that address systems modeling issues in health services research. This initiative seeks innovative, interdisciplinary research projects to transform the U.S. health care system toward more effective and efficient service delivery, including strategies to enhance delivery of preventive strategies. The full announcement is [here](#). Submission date: February 15, 2012
- **AHRQ Funding for Primary Care PBRN Centers of Excellence:** AHRQ solicits applications for Center Core grants (P30) to “support Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning. Applications must consist of a primary organization with 3 or more affiliated regional PBRNs (including a PBRN affiliated with the primary organization) or a national PBRN organized around shared resources and research infrastructure. It is expected that each Center will foster a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment. AHRQ is particularly interested in supporting an infrastructure that would accelerate both the generation of new knowledge and a community of learning for primary care practices to improve quality, patient safety and effectiveness of care.” The full announcement is [here](#). Submission date: January 26, 2012
- **CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation:** The CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation has released a “Health Care Innovation Challenge” which dedicates up to \$1B for innovative projects that test creative ways to deliver high quality health care services, with a driving emphasis on lowering costs. The full announcement is [here](#). Letters of intent are due December 19 and full proposals due January 27, 2012.
- **RWJF Funding for public health QI implementation:** As part of the new initiative, Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI), the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) will provide health departments with \$5,000 awards coupled with 15 hours of individualized quality improvement (QI) assistance from an experienced QI Coach to conduct a QI project that results in measureable changes in practice. A letter of intent to apply is due on January 6 and the proposal is due January 26, 2012. Please visit the [COPPHI](#) page of the NNPHI website for additional details and information on how to apply.
- **National Demonstration Initiative on QI Practices in State Public Health Programs:** The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has announced the launch of a National Demonstration Initiative on Quality Improvement Practices in State Public Health Programs. The purpose of the National Demonstration is “to increase state readiness for accreditation, demonstrate the value of accreditation/QI, improve integration of services among state public health programs, and use standard methodology to manage budgets in difficult times.” The deadline for applications is 11:59 PM EDT, January 9 2012. The full announcement is [here](#).
- **New NSF Program on Smart Health and Wellbeing:** This new funding opportunity “seeks to address fundamental technical and scientific issues that would support much needed transformation of healthcare from reactive and hospital-centered to preventive, proactive, evidence-based, person-centered and focused on wellbeing rather than disease. The issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to, sensor technology, networking, information and machine learning technology, modeling cognitive processes, system and process modeling, and social and economic issues.” Full Proposal Deadline(s): February 06, 2012 Type I: Exploratory Projects (EXP) February 21, 2012 Type II: Integrative Projects (INT Full announcement [here](#).
- **NIH Director's Transformative Research Awards.** This R01 from the NIH Common Fund was mentioned by Glen Mays during the September research conference. According to the announcement, "The NIH Director's Transformative Research Awards complements NIH's traditional, investigator-

initiated grant programs by supporting individual scientists or groups of scientists proposing groundbreaking, exceptionally innovative, original and/or unconventional research with the potential to create new scientific paradigms. Little or no preliminary data are expected. Projects must clearly demonstrate potential to produce a major impact in a broad area of biomedical or behavioral research." [Full Announcement](#). Application Deadline: January 12, 2012

- **NIH Systems Science and Health Research.** Proposals are being solicited from multiple NIH institutes for R01 behavioral and social science research projects, both basic and applied, that use methods of systems science (e.g. network analysis, agent-based modeling, etc) to understand complex processes that affect human health. Includes an interest in studies that elucidate the relationships between health service delivery processes and health outcomes across the entire system of care, multi-level effects of health promotion and disease prevention interventions, and mechanisms underlying health disparities. Details available in the [FOA](#) and standard application dates for R01s apply.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **Predocctoral support.** A reminder to PH PBRNs with doctoral students collaborating in research projects that these students can pursue dissertation funding to support their research activities. The three biggest and best federal sources for doctoral students pursuing HSR and PHSSR research projects are [NIH NRSA awards](#)(F-31s), [AHRQ's R36 awards](#), and [NSF's Dissertation Research Improvement awards](#). And of course, the University of Kentucky National Coordinating Center for PHSSR offers [dissertation support](#) through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The eligibility criteria and deadlines vary.

Key Dates for Public Health PBRNs

Jan 19, 2012	Monthly Public Health PBRN Virtual Meeting 1:00-2:30PM EST
Feb 2, 2012	Quarterly Public Health PBRN Webinar 12noon – 1:30PM EST
Feb 16, 2012	Monthly Public Health PBRN Virtual Meeting 1:00-2:30PM EST
Mar 15, 2012	Monthly Public Health PBRN Virtual Meeting 1:00-2:30PM EST
Apr 16-17, 2012	Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting and National Advisory Committee Meeting at the Keeneland Conference. Lexington, KY
Apr 17-19, 2012	Keeneland Conference on PHSSR Lexington, KY

