

Issue #75

PBRN Week in Review | April 29, 2011

PBRN Grantees: Please circulate relevant information to your network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the National Coordinating Center at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or 501-551-0106. [Newsletter archive](#).

Notable PBRN Activities

- **PH PBRN Quarterly Webinar.** Ross Brownson, professor of epidemiology and co-director of the CDC Prevention Research Center at Washington University, and national advisory committee member, presented "What is Evidence Based Practice and Policy?" to a web audience of more than 60 PH PBRN participants on Tuesday, April 26. Brownson explored the various types and domains of evidence and extended the definition of evidence based public health to decision making and policymaking, applying an example from tobacco use and related policy in California. He also compared and contrasted evidence based public health and evidence based medicine. Brownson highlighted useful research tools, calling particular attention to the *Guide to Community Preventive Services*. While discussing some of the challenges to identifying and implementing evidence-based approaches, Brownson noted the progress of PBRNs in linking the academy and practice. The webinar will be archived at the [Public Health PBRN website](#).
- **Golden Opportunities.** A plethora of funding opportunities are available that can be used to support PHSSR projects conducted through public health PBRNs. These include RWJF's call for investigator-initiated [PHSSR](#) proposals, Kentucky's funding for [dissertation research](#) and [junior faculty career development](#), CDC's [PRC-SIP](#) funding that specifically encourages collaboration with PBRNs, [AHRQ's special emphasis research funding](#) for underserved populations and population health, and NIMHD's funding for [minority health and health disparities research](#). These and other funding sources represent golden opportunities for reaching out to engage research partners in the possibilities for conducting research through public health PBRNs. As the behavioral economists remind us, collective action is mobilized through incentives, and research funding always drives behavior in the scientific community.
- **AcademyHealth Methods Course Offerings for PH PBRNs.** The NCC and AcademyHealth announce AcademyHealth's Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs. Courses are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through **June 30**. Invite network partners to utilize these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:

New
Courses

- Causality in Health Services Research
 - Part I: Introduction to Causal Concepts
 - Part II: Estimation Techniques for Causal Modeling
- Do You Really Want to Test Whether Two Populations are Equal? The Science of Equivalency Testing
- Introduction to Case Studies: A Public Health Methods Webinar

AcademyHealth offers a great selection of other free methods courses, which may be accessed through the [website](#). Please contact the [NCC](#) with questions and suggestions.

Activities on the Horizon

- **NACCHO Annual 2011.** PH PBRN representatives **Matt Stefanak (Ohio)**, **David Gregorio (Connecticut)**, **Bill Livingood (Florida)**, and **Julie Myhre (Minnesota)** have been invited to serve on a panel, "Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy" at the NACCHO conference, July 20-22 in Hartford, Conn.

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Science of Community Engagement.** The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) has issued a [Call for Papers](#) focusing on the science of community engagement for a special issue of the journal *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. The call specifically invites PBRN contributions and prioritizes papers that are collaborative and co-authored by community members. The deadline for submitting papers is Monday, August 1.
- **Integrating Primary Care and Public Health.** The *American Journal of Public Health* and *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* are planning a joint issue addressing the question: "How do we improve population health and promote health equity through the effective integration of primary care and public health?" A multi-agency [Call for Papers](#) seeks submissions in the areas of science, education, practice, and policy and especially invites submissions co-authored by professionals in the public health and primary care fields. Manuscripts are due by August 1.
- **Call for Policy-Relevant PHSSR Findings.** Will your research produce evidence regarding the effectiveness and value of investments in the public health system? Several Public Health PBRNs are studying related issues such as uses of funding streams, responses to economic shocks, and efforts to reconfigure delivery systems for improved capabilities and efficiency. As your network gathers early findings and preliminary evidence, please let the NCC know so that we can help you think through dissemination opportunities with policymakers that will not preclude subsequent publication of scientific articles. Send an [email](#) to us with your updates.

Resources in Research and Practice

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **New NACCHO Data.** NACCHO has published a [preliminary report](#) of its fall 2010 survey on local health department job losses and program funding cuts. These state-level data show the impact of ongoing financial strain on the ability of local health departments to serve and protect the health of their communities.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Smoke-Free Laws.** An analysis of progress toward the **Healthy People 2010** objective of enacting laws in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to eliminate smoking in public places and worksites is published in the April 22 issue of [MMWR](#).

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

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

NEW LISTINGS

- **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).** According to the [FOA](#), "priority topic areas for projects include: 1) information and communications technologies to increase access to care, 2) policies or initiatives to increase the supply of rural healthcare practitioners and/or the use of paraprofessionals or peer-led health services to supplement existing healthcare services, 3) strategies to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care, and 4) translational and transdisciplinary research linking the social determinants of health and health disparities that is innovative, rigorous and well grounded in appropriate theoretical framework. Projects should focus on improving healthcare for all individuals belonging to the target population within a local or regional catchment area of specific health care services or systems rather than for individuals with a particular health disease/condition (e.g., adults with type 2 diabetes living in rural areas). Applicants should have demonstrated partnerships with healthcare organizations, local or state governments, professional provider organizations, patient/consumer advocacy groups, or other relevant collaborators to ensure the feasibility and eventual impact of projects." Deadlines: Letter of Interest, May 8; Application: June 8.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **Junior Investigators.** New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming has released a [Call for Proposals](#) inviting submissions from junior investigators. Funding is available for up to 13 awards of \$75,000 each for 24 months. Brief Proposal deadline: May 5.
- **Accreditation Preparation.** NACCHO has announced a new funding opportunity for LHDs to engage in community health assessment and community health improvement plans. The program will award 12 competitive grants of \$35,000 each. Visit the NACCHO [website](#) for additional information. Application deadline: May 23.
- **AHRQ Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Service.** AHRQ has made \$4.5 million available to fund three research centers with a focus on one of the following programmatic areas: patient safety, health equity, or health care system implementation. The project period is for three years with a \$1.5 million annual budget for each year. For more information, click on [RFA-HS-11-005](#). Application deadline: May 23.
- **Public Health Services and Systems Research.** RWJF has released a [CFP](#) for PHSSR. Approximately \$2.7 million has been made available in this round of funding for up to 14 awards. Grantees will receive up to \$200,000 each to be used over a 24-month period. Brief Proposal deadline: May 24, 2011.
- **Dissertation Research.** RWJF has released a [Call for Proposals](#) for the Assuring the Future of Public Health Systems & Services Research: Dissertation Grant Program for pre-doctoral dissertation applicants. Deadline for receipt of online proposals: June 1.
- **Health Impact Project.** A [CFP](#) has been issued for the Health Impact Project: Advancing Smarter Policies for Healthier Communities, a collaboration of RWJF and The Pew Charitable Trusts. This CFP is for organizations that wish to undertake a health impact assessment as a

way to demonstrate their value in policymaking. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 with 18-month project periods. Up to eight projects will be awarded. Deadline for brief online proposals: June 1.

Specifies
PBRNs

- **SIPS.** CDC's Prevention Research Centers [Special Interest Project Competitive Supplements \(SIPS\)](#) are available to universities housing PRCs. Application deadline: June 1.
- **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced a grant competition designed to encourage cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website. Final application deadline: June 16.
- **HHS Preparedness.** CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program](#). Note eligibility requirements and opportunities for collaboration. Application deadline: June 17.
- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). The rapid-response award concept papers are due August 2.
- **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

Key Dates

May 19	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
June 12-14	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle
June 16	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
July 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference, Hartford